



Spectators pack the playground of the Zarqa High School to watch Qatari singer Ali Abdul Sattar Thursday night during the first Zarqa Festival of Culture and Arts

Islamists clash with authorities over protest of Zarqa public festival

By Khaled Kassabeh
Special to the Jordan Times

Zarqa — In the first Festival of Culture and Arts here, Islamists Thursday clashed with the government for holding activities that they see as being "in contradiction with religious teachings."

In a memorandum signed by a large number of Zarqans, the Islamists said that the festival, which began Wednesday, includes activities that violate Islamic principles and teachings referring to dancing parties in which Jordanian and Arab singers are participating.

Witnesses said IAF members here distributed the memorandum as people entered the festival area.

Security sources said that one of the "extremists" tried to "wreak havoc" in the first day of the festival during the performance of Qatari singer Ali Abdul Sattar.

singer Ali Abdul Sattar.

They said early interrogations with the "extremist" whose name was not revealed, showed that he had planned with other partners, to cut off electricity to sabotage the festival.

Police later sent reinforcements and conducted strict inspections at all entrances. Hundreds of policemen were seen covering the area.

The Islamists, the Islamic Action Front (IAF) party members in particular, made several attempts in the past to block efforts by the government to hold the festival in Zarqa and sought to at least change the venue.

The festival is held at an arena next to Shubeth Castle, 20 metres away from a mosque.

IAF Zarqa deputies met with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker last week and asked him to have the venue of the festival

changed to an area away from the mosque.

Head of the festival's committee Mohammad Zawahreh said Zarqa Governor Misha Tarawneh had asked him to change the location of the festival. But Mr. Zawahreh said he insisted on the original site, but agreed to move it from the western to the eastern arena, 200 metres away from the mosque.

Observers say that since the recent defeat of the Islamist candidates in the country's first municipal elections, as well as their loss of poor showing in the Chamber of Commerce elections, has spurred discontent and anger among their constituency.

This confrontation at the festival is said to be the third between the government and Zarqa Islamists during the past two months.

German minister to arrive for talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany Carl-Dieter Spranger is due in Amman on Aug. 23 for a four-day visit, according to the German Embassy in Amman.

An embassy statement said Mr. Spranger, who will be arriving here after a visit to the Palestinian self-rule area of Jericho, will hold talks with the ministers of planning, foreign affairs and water and irrigation as well as with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker before being received by His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.



Carl-Dieter Spranger

Before leaving Jordan for Syria on Aug. 26, Mr. Spranger will visit the ancient city of Petra, the statement said.

Finance symposium to review effect of economic restructuring on farming

Amman (Petra) — A three-day symposium on financing agricultural development in the Arab World to be held here on Aug. 29, will look at the impact of economic restructuring programmes on the agricultural sector, according to Director of the Amman-based Regional Office of the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) Abdul Hamid Kayed.

Dr. Kayed said the symposium will focus on financing and development policies in force and their reflections on agricultural development levels in the region.

He added that the symposium aims to brief participants on the latest developments in the area of financing regional agricultural projects and share regional

experiences in the area of financing agricultural projects.

The symposium will also review the impact of the economic reform and structural adjustment programmes on financial flow directed to agricultural development projects, and identify the role of national, regional and international institutions in financing Arab agricultural projects.

Participants will discuss roles of such institutions in working out investment projects and reviewing methods capable of enabling the private sector to benefit from development loans, granted by national, regional and international financing institutions, Dr. Kayed said.

Jordan marks 43rd anniversary of King's accession to throne

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Friday celebrated the 43rd anniversary of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne.

On August 11, 1952 the then 17-year-old prince became the King of Jordan.

Jordanians mark the anniversary of the accession in commemoration of the achievements witnessed in the Kingdom under the leadership of King Hussein, most prominent of which, was the restoration of occupied Jordanian lands and usurped water resources through the Jordan-Israel peace treaty signed last October.

At the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit due in October, the Kingdom will seek to encourage development and investments in economic fields in order to reap benefits for Jordan as well as the region, the agency said.

In celebrating the anniversary, Jordanians commemo-



rate the King's undying efforts to make Jordan into a model democratic state and to achieve Arab solidarity. On the occasion, the Ministry of Post and Communications announced that it had circulated commemorative stamps to local post offices. The stamps, depicting various archaeological sites in the Kingdom, come in 50, 75, 80, 160 and 200 fils denominations, said a ministry statement.

King Hussein received cables of good wishes from heads of state and from Jordanian leaders and heads of organisations.

'Jordan, Israel to discuss property issue'

Amman (J.T.) — Jordan will insist in its future negotiations with Israel over the issue of refugees that property belonging to Jordanian citizens in Israel be recognised as such, Ambassador to Tel Aviv Marwan Muasher said.

Dr. Muasher said in an interview with Al Dustour Arabic daily that the Israeli law that endorsed the Jordan-Israel peace treaty on Nov. 10, 1994 has recognised any property owned by Jordanians after that date.

Property owned before that date by Jordanians of Palestinian origin who became refugees after the 1948 war would continue,

according to the Israeli law, to be considered property of absentees.

"Jordan will not accept that," said Dr. Muasher. "We will insist on discussing the assets of the absentees and the total situation of the refugees including their right to return or be compensated" in accordance with UN resolutions.

Dr. Muasher said Jordan, Israel, Egypt and the Palestinians started discussions over the fate of 1967 refugees, commonly known as displaced persons, early this year.

The refugee issue, Dr. Muasher said, will be discussed as soon as Israel and

the Palestinians start final status talks on the refugees and Jerusalem.

Dr. Muasher arrived here Thursday to discuss with Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti and senior officials the status of current and future Jordan-Israeli relations.

Dr. Muasher is expected to report on his talks with Israeli officials concerning the recent Israeli court ruling that allows Jews to enter and pray at Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

Dr. Muasher said that explained to Israeli officials the serious consequences of violations of the sanctity of holy places in Jerusalem.

Country's first group wedding costs only JD1,400

Amman (AFP) — More than 1,500 people Thursday attended the first group wedding in the history of the Kingdom at which four couples took their vows. The cost of the entire event, held at the Yarmouk Club, came to an approximate JD1,400.

Organised by Al Afaf Charity Society, the objective of this arrangement "is to facilitate marriages and establish a new outlook on marriages based on good traditions taken from our religious teachings and Arab ethics," said Senator Abdul Latif Arabiyat, the society's president.

The concept also seeks to make marriage affordable to those who might otherwise find the costs prohibitive. Al Afaf society, established in 1993, offers its matchmaking services free of charge. It provides financial support in the form of loans, in cooperation with the Islamic Bank. The amount of the loans ranges between JD 500 and JD 1,000. Applicants simply need to complete an application form and submit a photo. The society has facilitated marriages and given financial assistance to more than 90 couples.

A study carried out by the University of Jordan showed that single men between the ages of 25 and 30 made up 30 per cent of the population, while single women between the ages of 20 and 25 were estimated to be 60 per cent.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FUHEIS FESTIVAL

* Concert by Odeh Zyadat at the main theatre at 9:00 p.m.

* Several exhibitions on Jordan's tourism sector, Karak, the late Jordanian prime minister, Wasfi Tal, Al Ra'i Arabic daily's 25th anniversary, Germany's struggle against fascism, Orthodox churches, abstract, and children art.

EXHIBITIONS

* Paintings by "Pioneers of the Fifties" Isma'il and Suzanne Al Sheikhly, Khalid Qassab, and Dr. Nuri Behjet at Orfali Art Gallery, Umam Utheina.

* Paintings by Aneta Traikova at Alia Art Gallery.

* "Exhibition of Chinese Products '95," at Al Bassam Hall, King Abdullah Gardens.

* Exhibition demonstrating the developments of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

Apology to Majali ends controversy — observers

'Revival of land sales to Israelis issue is a way of trying to undermine peace process'

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

Amman — An advertisement placed in a local paper by the Nazareth-based Kul Al Arab newspaper this week apologising for printing an article accusing former Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali of leasing land to Israelis was seen by some experts as the end of a seven-month-old controversy. Others, however, said it was just the beginning of a new one.

In the advertisement Kul Al Arab acknowledged that its news report, published Jan. 13, was baseless and fabricated. The paper said the report, which accused Dr. Majali of leasing, and members of the Majali family of selling land to Israelis before the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, was based on fabricated information that was leaked by unreliable sources.

"After close examination and verification of the information published in the report it became clear that the item was leaked by some people who seek to ruin Dr. Majali's reputation," said the apology which was run as a front page advertisement in Al Dustour Arabic daily last Saturday. "We would like to

apologise to the Prime Minister and to his family for any harm done to their good reputation," the advertisement said.

"Everyone who knows Dr. Majali knows that these allegations and lies could not possibly be true."

Shortly after the resignation of Dr. Majali's government on Jan. 8 Kul Al Arab published the report.

But according to sources close to the newspaper, its chief editor, Samih Qassem, and its publisher, Musa Hasadiab were in Amman at the time the story was printed.

The paper tried to make up for the story.

"In addition to apologising, the newspaper ran a full-page interview with one member of the Majali family, Sa'ad Majali, a pilot. "What made things worse was the broadcasting of the report on Israeli television," said the source.

On Jan. 14, a day after the Kul Al Arab report was published, Dr. Majali's brother, Lower House of Parliament Deputy Abdul Hadi Majali immediately denied the information carried in the report and contacted lawyers in the West Bank to



Abdul Salam Majali

file a lawsuit against the paper.

"We protested to the paper on the publication of fabricated information and insisted on filing a lawsuit," Mr. Majali said.

"I haven't had any contact with my lawyer during this period, and we are still studying the option of whether to drop the case," especially after the publication of the apology.

According to Sultan Kharab, a columnist for Al Ra'i daily, the information on Jordanians leasing or selling Jordanian land to Israelis



Abdul Hadi Majali

was published in a book entitled "Palestine: from the 1948 Disaster to the State of Diaspora" and written by an Israeli before the 1967 war.

In the book, some Jordanian families, including the Majali and Fayed families, are said to have sold plots of land to Israelis during the 1920's and 1930's, when Jordan was still the Emirate of Transjordan.

According to Mr. Kharab, the information was dismissed by Ebad Ya'ari, a political analyst for the Israeli daily Yediot Ahranot. Mr. Ya'ari also works for

Israel Television. The story is "baseless" and is targeted at damaging peace efforts between Jordanians and Israelis.

Head of the Lands and Survey Department Ali Gharabeh confirmed that Israelis do not own land in Jordan, and that all records show that Jordanian land is owned only by Jordanians.

"Land ownership was not registered in the past," Mr. Gharabeh said. "But according to our records, there is nothing that proves land sale to Israelis," at any time.

Some experts believed that raising the issue now was aimed at destroying peace efforts between Arabs and Israelis.

Al Dustour Chief Editor Nabeel Sharif said the reason behind publishing the advertisement "now, seven months after the controversial article was published, was a matter of technicalities."

Dr. Sharif said that the Majali family had sought a formal apology, and that was something that was not easy to do in a couple of days.

"Now it is over," Dr. Sharif said. "The publication of the apology has put

an end to the issue. It is a very positive step."

But Mr. Kharab, who is close to Dr. Majali, said that the publication of the apology at this time, especially after last week's endorsement of the laws to end the economic boycott against Israel by Parliament, was done with ulterior motives.

"The fact that the issue was brought up again now has serious implications," said Mr. Kharab. "The people who are doing this are targeting Dr. Majali himself and the Arab-Israeli peace process in general."

Deputy Majali said the persons behind the publication of such "rumours" are not West Bank residents but Jordanians. He also believed "they" sought to ruin the reputation of the Majali family in particular and the peace process in general.

"They are the enemies of peace. They intended to discredit Dr. Majali because he was the architect of peace," the deputy said.

Head of the Jordanian delegation to the Jordanian-Israeli talks on water Munther Haddadin said that such reports, as the Kul Al Arab story, aim at "shaking the confidence in our great country."

Saddam assails defectors

(Continued from page 1)

brought the Baath Party to power, Mr. Hassan was a child and was an officer with the rank of lieutenant when President Saddam Hussein took over as president in 1979.

Asked whether his defection would affect relations with the U.N. Special Commission disarming Iraq under the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire, Mr. Aziz said:

"Hussein Kamel held the administrative responsibility for the military industrialisation and had nothing to do with the political decision pertinent to the dealing with

the (U.N.) Security Council or special commission.

"I represented and I still do so the leadership in administering this relation. Therefore there will be no change in the relation from the political point of view," Mr. Aziz said.

Mr. Aziz denied reports of "unusual military movements" in Iraq.

"President Saddam Hussein draws the prerequisites of his leadership from the love of the Iraqi people and his confidence in them and the (ruling) Arab Baath Socialist Party and not from certain individuals whether they are his relatives or not."

160 new contracting firms register in first 6 months of year — JCA

AMMAN (Petra) — At total of 160 new contracting firms registered with the Ministry of Public Works during the first half of 1995 marking a significant increase in this sector and bringing the total number of contracting establishments to 1,435 according to the President of the Jordanian Contractors Association (JCA) President Mohammad Murad Friday.

He said the registrations followed the association's drive to enforce a law prohibiting any person or persons from

conducting contracting work unless the entity was licensed with the ministry.

Mr. Murad estimated the total capital of registered contracting companies in the Kingdom to be JD 145 million. His estimate of these companies' work in progress for the public and private sectors was about JD 792 million.

Mr. Murad said the credit facilities offered to the contracting sector amounted to nearly JD 718 million.

He said that despite the reduction in

the government's overall volume of contracting projects this year compared to last year the Jordanian contracting sector employs 60,000 workers, and contributes by nearly 18 per cent to the gross national product (GNP).

He said the contracting sector is involved in most of the 27 projects which the Jordanian government plans to submit to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference due in Amman in October.

Spain describes foiling plot to kill Juan Carlos as big blow to ETA

MADRID (R) — The Spanish government on Friday described the foiling of an ETA plot to kill King Juan Carlos on the holiday island of Majorca as an important blow against the Basque separatist guerrillas.

"It was a very important operation," Interior Ministry State Secretary Margarita Robles told a radio interviewer, noting that it followed recent successful police action against ETA groups in Navarre, Barcelona and in southern France.

"Certainly the last few months have been very positive for the fight against terrorism," Ms. Robles said.

She suggested that the increasing weakness of ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom) was driving the guerrillas to desperate measures.

"I think they are at their lowest ebb and for that reason they have to try plans like Majorca to show they are still strong," Ms. Robles said.

Police in Majorca on Wednesday night arrested three ETA militants with documents and equipment indicating they were planning to kill the king.

They had rented an apartment near the Marivent Royal Palace just outside the island's capital of Palma and with a view over the harbour where the royal yacht was moored.

Police seized explosives and weapons, including a rifle with telescopic sight, and documents showing the guerrillas had made a detailed study of the movements of the royal family to and from their holiday home.

A total of 12 other people were arrested on Thursday in the French and Spanish Basque country in related police swoops.

Interior Minister Juao Alberto Belloch told a news conference on Thursday night the government believed the king was the principal target.

"The information arising from the arrests allows us to say that the main objective of this ETA commando was to carry out an attack on the king," he said.

But Mr. Belloch did not rule out the possibility that the guerrillas might also have been preparing an attack on a summit meeting of European Union (EU) of state and government scheduled in Majorca in September. Spain currently holds the presidency of the 15-nation union.

Like Ms. Robles, the minister said ETA, who have killed some 800 people in a 27-year campaign for an independent Basque state, appeared to be turning to bigger targets to catch the limelight and force the government to negotiate.

He urged unity between all political parties to combat the guerrillas "because they do have the capacity to kill."

Mr. Belloch said police, helped by French authorities, had followed the movements of the ETA group led by 53-year-old Jose Rego Vidal for some nine months. They were under constant surveillance from the moment they arrived in Majorca by yacht on July 17.

Mr. Rego, a long-standing ETA militant, has a history



A police officer leads Jose Rego Vidal to a minibus on their way to the airport August 10 after the three-member commando of the Basque separatist group ETA was arrested overnight here where Spain's King Juan Carlos is vacationing. Police said they still do not know what the trio had been planning but added that documents seized on them showed they had been following the movements of the royal family and of former Premier Adolfo Suarez (AFP photo)

of involvement in plots against the royal family.

In 1974 he was connected with a failed plan to kidnap the king's father, Don Juan de Borbon, in Monte Carlo and five years later he was jailed for a year for involvement in a conspiracy to attack

South, North Koreans hold talks on seized rice ship

SEOUL (R) — Officials from North and South Korea met in Beijing on Friday in a bid to secure the return of a southern rice-aid ship and 21 crew held by the North on spy charges, a South Korean unification ministry spokesman said Friday.

"A meeting started last night and is still continuing," the spokesman said.

"The meeting is likely to go on tomorrow and we are making our utmost efforts to secure the release of the Samsun Venus and its crew," he said.

The domestic Yonhap news agency said the talks were making progress but the spokesman said he had no details.

Kim Hyung-Ki, the South's assistant unification minister for information and analysis, arrived in Beijing Thursday to try to contact a Northern representative.

South Korea's state radio said Mr. Kim was now meeting Lee Song-Dok, a senior member of North Korea's committee for the promotion of external economic cooperation.

Vice Unification Minister Song Young-Dae was quoted by Yonhap as telling a cabinet meeting he believed the North would soon repatriate the ship and its crew.

The ship is the second Southern vessel in Pyongyang's custody after patrol boats seized a trawler with eight crew aboard off the west coast peninsula in May.

Under an accord signed in Beijing last June, South Korea is supplying 150,000

tonnes of free rice to the North to ease what Seoul says is a chronic food shortage and to improve ties. Half already has been shipped to the North.

On Wednesday, North Korea abruptly told the South it would shelve a third round of talks on rice aid due to have opened in Beijing on Thursday.

The North accused a crewman on the ship of illegally photographing port facilities when the ship docked at Chongjin a week ago and said he admitted spying.

The Samsun Venus, which unloaded 5,000 tonnes of rice at Chongjin, was to have left the North last Sunday.

Sam, marking the historic 50th anniversary of liberation... has decided to make a clemency order benefiting a total of 3,169 people," Mr. Ahn said.

He said the amnesty was to allow as many people as possible to take part in "a new leap forward" in national development and to celebrate the anniversary as an important turning point for the nation.

Mr. Ahn said 1,367 of the prisoners would be freed from jail on Aug. 15, the 50th anniversary of liberation from Japan's rule over Korea that lasted from 1910-45.

Another 426 prisoners will have their terms reduced while the rest, who have already been freed, will now have their civil rights fully restored.

Without official clemency, prisoners freed without completing their terms or those who have had their sentences suspended are barred from voting or running for offices.

Among prominent politicians benefiting from the order was Park Chul-Un, a powerful relative of ex-President Roh Tae-Woo, who was convicted of accepting bribes in November 1993.

Mr. Park, a lawmaker until he was found guilty of receiving 600 million won (\$790,000) from the nation's slot-machine "godfather" Chung Dok-Jin in return for persuading authorities to allow Mr. Chung to evade taxes, was released on parole several months ago. He can now run freely for elected office.

Study urges Germany to let shops stay open late

BONN, Germany (AP) — A government-commissioned study released Friday recommended that German shops be allowed to stay open until 10 p.m. on weekdays and 6 p.m. on Saturdays. The long-awaited study by the Munich-based IFO Institute for Economic Research was expected to spark a heated debate in Germany, where many defend the current early closing hours as necessary to protect small shopkeepers and the family lives of retail workers. Germany has the tightest store-closing hours in Europe — 6:30 p.m. on normal weekdays and 2 p.m. Saturdays, with a few extra hours on Thursdays and some Saturdays. Pressure has been building to modernise the law in order to create more jobs in the retail sector, stimulate the economy with more buying, and accommodate increasing number of workers doing evening and weekend shifts. Parliament is expected to change the law in its next session, which starts in September.

Belgian arrested for pedophilia in Philippines

MANILA (AFP) — A Belgian national was arrested in a resort town just outside the Philippine capital for suspected pedophilia, immigration bureau agents said here Thursday. The suspect, identified as Felix Vanden Haas, 57, a resident of the resort town of Pagsanjan, was arrested late Wednesday in the company of young children. Several photographs, allegedly showing the suspect engaged in intimate acts with children were confiscated and will be used as evidence against him, the agents said. The suspect had reportedly taken a number of children under his care, paying their poor parents to let him stay with them. The government has been on an active campaign to catch foreign pedophiles following news reports that many of them were coming to this country to take advantage of "child prostitutes." A British man and an Australian man have been jailed in the Philippines, where they face imprisonment of up to 40 years as a current government crackdown on child abuse and pedophilia continues, a state prosecutor said.

Argentine flight attendant sucked out of plane

BUENOS AIRES (R) — An Argentine flight attendant was sucked out of an airplane over the high Andes on Wednesday when the rear door blew open, police in the city of Cordoba said. Police mountain rescue teams were searching for the body of 26-year-old Lilian Almada in the Altas Cumbres Range of the Andes near Cordoba after the accident on a domestic Inter-Austral flight. Police did not know the make of the airplane involved.

What a load of garbage

TOKYO (R) — Japan spent 1.85 trillion yen (\$20.3 billion) to dispose of garbage in the fiscal year which ended in March 1993. Kyoto owes service said. According to the Ministry of Health and Welfare, that meant 14,800 yen (\$162) per person was spent on disposing of garbage, up 15.6 per cent from previous fiscal year. Kyoto said Japan faces a growing problem with garbage because of a lack of disposal facilities and government officials say drastic steps must be taken to reduce the volume of garbage, particularly in Tokyo.

Relief at end of French strike over toilet breaks

PARIS (R) — About 250 relieved workers at a French slaughterhouse ended a strike after partial victory over their boss's decree that they had to go to the toilet at fixed times or lose pay. Staff in the "pepe break" dispute at the plant in Quimperle, northwest France, were still threatening legal action over restrictions on going to the lavatory outside a newly imposed five-minute break three times a day. The strike ended when the plant's owner abandoned a plan to dock 50 francs (\$10) from a worker's holiday bonus if he or she spent too long in the washroom or went at the wrong time.

Chechens accuse Russia of violating military accord

GROZNY (AFP) — The Chechen separatists Friday accused Russia of flagrantly violating the joint military accord signed less than two weeks ago and of preventing their delegation from attending peace talks here.

Akbmed Zakayev, culture minister in the breakaway Chechen government, accused the Russians of preparing a new military offensive despite an agreement under the military accord to begin disarmament on both sides.

"The Chechen side has incontrovertible evidence that the Russian side is using the talks process to regroup its forces and prepare for a major attack all along the front-line," he said.

He said there were cases of Russian forces opening up artillery fire on populated areas of the small Caucasus republic.

Zakayev also said the Chechen delegation was halted Friday at a Russian military post near Roshni Chu, about 60 kilometres southwest of Grozny on its way to the talks.

The row has been one of the most serious since negotiations began, although Mr. Zakayev said talks would continue Saturday.

On Thursday, the Chechens walked out of talks to protest what they said

were Russian violations.

NTV television said talks restarted shortly after, when the Russian side apologised for blocking the Chechen delegation at a Russian post.

The Chechens had said they were suspending talks because the Russians were not adhering to the prisoners exchange accord.

On Friday, Mr. Zakayev said that "the Russian side is continuing flagrantly to violate the accord."

"The government delegation of Ichkeria and the members of the specially appointed (military) commission were again held up at a military post near Roshni Chu village."

"The Russian side is also undermining fulfilment of various points of the accord, notably the exchange of forcibly detained people, on the principle of all for all."

The Russians also say the other side is failing to hand over prisoners, or even information on their whereabouts.

The chief Russian representative at talks on prisoner releases, Colonel Vladimir Ivanov, said he gave Chechen separatists details about more than 90 captured Russian soldiers but the Chechens had presented a list of only five.

A shaky ceasefire has been

France agrees to allow EU observers at Pacific nuclear tests

BRUSSELS (Agencies) — France has agreed in principle to allow European Commission (EC) experts to observe its planned nuclear tests in the South Pacific and will meet the EU executive soon to discuss the tests' effects.

"The French government has proposed that this meeting should take place before the end of this month," commission spokesman Costas Verros told a news conference.

"We can say we are satisfied because the French government has accepted the commission's request to organise an experts' meeting. The French government has also accepted the principle of an on-site mission and of access by that mission to the installation (at the test site)," Mr. Verros said.

"We are going to suggest baving the meeting next week," he added.

France announced in June its decision to stage up to eight underground nuclear tests between September and May next year on Mururoa Atoll in the South Pacific.

The move, widely condemned by environmentalists, provoked a diplomatic ruckus with Australia, New Zealand and several of France's partners within the 15-country European Union (EU).

Paris says it needs the tests to perfect computer simulation techniques for future, non-explosive testing of warheads.

Commission involvement

in the tests procedure stems from the requirement in the EU's nuclear treaty for countries to keep the EU executive informed of the environmental and health effects of their nuclear tests.

The commission is still mulling over the question of whether it has the legal power to do anything more than observe the tests. No decision is expected before September.

In Sydney, Australia's prime minister and foreign minister were striving Friday to find a common line on France's reported plan to shut down the Mururoa nuclear test site next year after a series of tests.

As the diplomatic wrangling continued, at least 14 vessels were underway preparing to "cast off" from Mururoa to protest the proposed series of French nuclear tests.

Foreign Minister Gareth Evans admitted Friday that what had been hailed by Australia as a victory over the French government on its nuclear testing programme was nothing of the sort.

Earlier Friday, Prime Minister Paul Keating said he accepted "face value" the French promise to shut the



French Ambassador to the U.N. in Geneva Gerard Errera (right) speaks to the press at the U.N.-disarmament conference in Geneva, August 10. Errera declared that France will continue its planned nuclear bomb test till May 1996 (AFP photo)

Suu Kyi has line for talks with military

RANGOON (R) — Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi said Friday she had a line of communication with the military government but declined to say if progress had been made towards the dialogue she has called for.

"We do have a line of communication with the authorities but until we think it is the right time I'd rather not comment on it," she told a news conference at her Rangoon home.

Ms. Suu Kyi, released from nearly six years of house arrest on July 10, did not say if there had been any talks with the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

After her release, Ms. Suu Kyi called for dialogue with the military, stressing the need for national reconciliation between the military and the opposition, including the democracy movement and autonomy-seeking ethnic minorities.

Ms. Suu Kyi said she was encouraged that her supporters had done nothing which might harm the chance of negotiations with SLORC.

"We had indicated last

Vietnamese official to visit U.S.

HANOI (AFP) — A top Vietnamese Communist Party official is to tour the United States from Saturday in the highest level visit since the two countries normalised relations last month.

Hong Ha, chairman of the Communist Party external relations commission and a member of the central committee secretariat, will visit San Francisco, Atlanta, Washington and New York to hold meetings with U.S. officials and think-tanks.

A former journalist and now a leading figure behind Vietnam's foreign relations, Mr. Ha was invited to tour the United States for 10 days by the Ford Foundation, which has organised a series of visits by top Vietnamese officials.

Mr. Ha will meet State Department and Pentagon officials and hold discussions with members of the Council of Foreign Relations in New York, according to Mark Sidel, Ford Foundation programme officer for Vietnam.

Savimbi says Angolan war is over

LUANDA (R) — UNITA rebel leader Jonas Savimbi said on Friday that Angola's 19-year civil war was over and the Angolan news agency said he would become vice-president in a coalition government.

"There are still (military) actions which I see as minor incidents on the road (to peace)."

"As political will is the determining factor, I consider that the war... is over and we want to go forward to consolidate peace and to create the conditions for national reconciliation," Mr. Savimbi told Gabon-based Africa Numero 1 radio.

Angola's state news agency Angop reported earlier that Mr. Savimbi had accepted an invitation to become one of Angola's vice-presidents during talks with Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos in Gabon on Thursday.

But Angop said Savimbi had told Mr. Dos Santos dur-

ing the talks in the Gabonese town of Franceville the invitation should be extended to his movement UNITA, not to him personally.

"We (UNITA) accepted the offer. But the formal offer should be sent to UNITA, not to Jonas Savimbi. We will wait for the formal letter of invitation," Angop quoted the UNITA leader as telling reporters after the meeting.

"What will happen if I die?" the UNITA leader added, when asked why the invitation be formally sent to his movement.

A peace accord signed between UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) and the Luanda government last November brought a tenuous end to 19 years of civil war that devastated the country, killed at least 500,000 people and drove a third of its 10 million population from their homes.

Mr. Dos Santos told Africa Numero 1 on Friday that the wartime rivals had started the difficult process towards peace but said national reconciliation was no longer a dream.

"We have begun a difficult process... there have been (military) actions but the scope of these actions cannot be compared with what he lived through about a year ago."

"The government undertakes to be serious in carrying out its undertakings in the conviction that peace... and national reconciliation will no longer be a dream but a reality in the coming months," the Angolan president said.

Mr. Dos Santos and Mr. Savimbi met in Franceville, 550 kilometres southeast of Gabon's capital Libreville, to try to hammer out a rebel leader's role in a future government, forming a single national army, and the establishment of a government with significant participation by UNITA.

Diplomats said demobilisation of an estimated 75,000 UNITA guerrillas and around 100,000 Angolan armed forces along with the creation of a single 70,000-strong army were among the greatest obstacles to peace.

The Angolan parliament passed a constitutional amendment in July to pave the way for two vice-presidents, one of whom was expected to be Mr. Savimbi.

But the ruling MPLA party had insisted Mr. Savimbi take over the post only if he disbanded the UNITA army.

Apart from sporadic outbreaks of fighting, Angola has been peaceful since the November peace accord and the United Nations has sent in the first units of a 7,600-strong peacekeeping force.

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BELFAST... Ireland... security... weekend... at two... periods... taking... HUNDRA... deployed... province... London... mated... take to... Caution... The mar... take place... ground of... Irish peace... IRA... 15-year... from the... Gern... the IRA's... Fem... appeal... tant "Orange... Thursday... which will... dominantly... Belfast and... "Surely... time in our... everything that... our people... wiser counsels... (Protestant... etc) will prevail...

Leakey rally b...

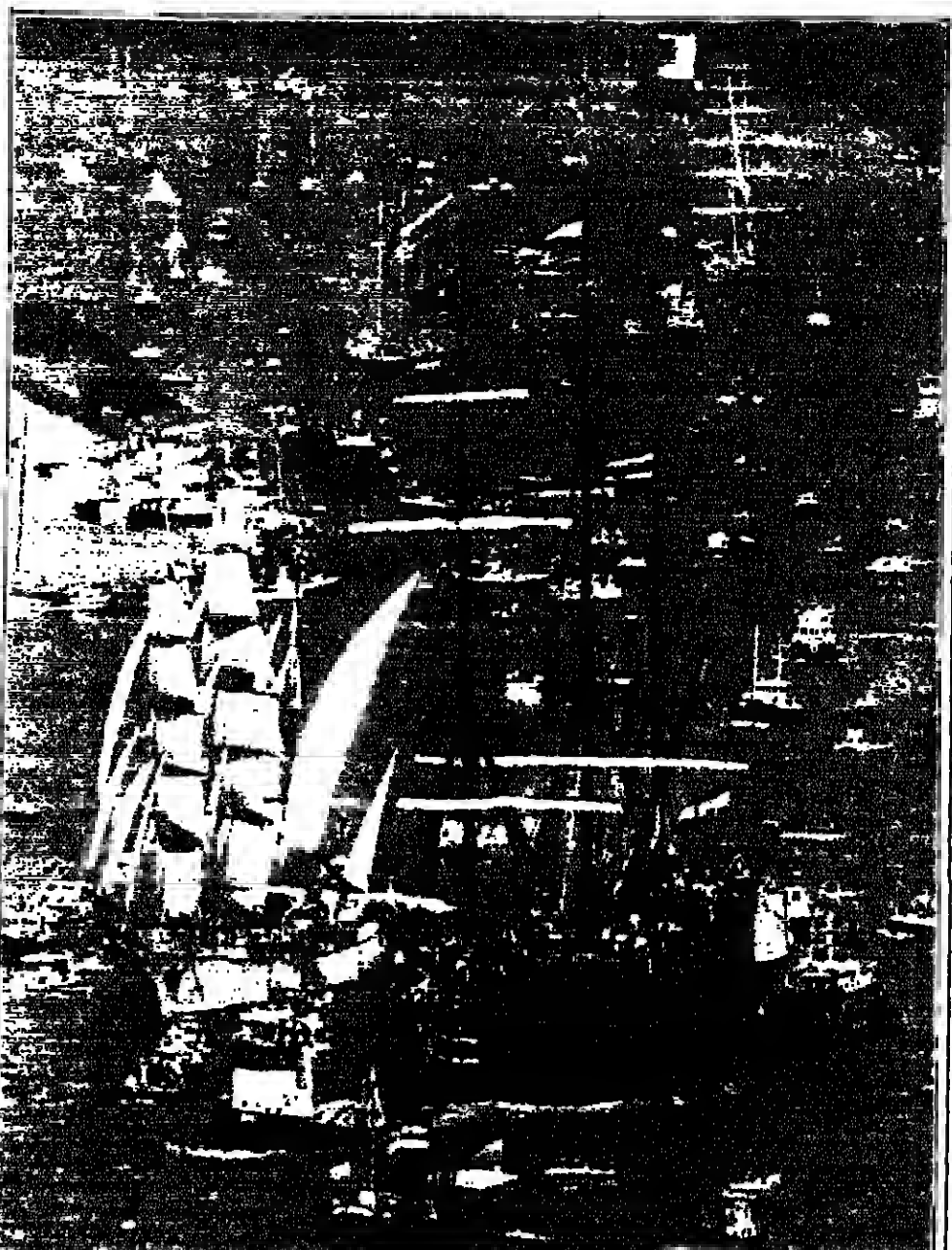
NAIROBI (AFP) — police charged... white center... Richard Leakey... members of... party had tried... rally in the center... Nakuru before being... up Thursday by... bers of the public... The state... of the Safina... Wabuli Park on... named by opposition... mians and the Law... Kenya... The Safina memb... and journalists... British women... attacked by... rubber whips and... handles. Some were... tied, and cars were... Mr. Leakey said the... 160 kilometres dissi... made any attempt to... a rally... Rift Valley police... F.R.A. Sang issued... ment however sayi... Sabina members had... ted authorities of... "made it difficult for... other protection or... He said he had lauch... investigation and... taken against those... have contravened the...

Study urges
Germany to let
shops stay open

BONN, Germany (AP) — A government-commissioned study released Friday said that Germany should be allowed to stay open on Saturdays. The study, which was conducted by the Institute for Economic Research in Bonn, found that many Germans defend the closing hours as a way to protect the family life of workers. Germany is one of the few European countries that have a law that closes shops on Saturdays. The study found that many Germans defend the closing hours as a way to protect the family life of workers. Germany is one of the few European countries that have a law that closes shops on Saturdays.

Belgian arrested
for pedophilia
in Philippines

MANILA (AFP) — A Belgian national was arrested in a resort town just outside Manila for alleged pedophilia. The man, a resident of Belgium, was arrested by Philippine police on Thursday. The suspect had been accused of having sex with a minor. The man was arrested by Philippine police on Thursday. The suspect had been accused of having sex with a minor.



PARADE OF SAIL: The Dutch three-masted bark started Thursday morning with the Parade of Europe (left) and the replica of the Dutch VOC-ship Amsterdam meet each other in (photo). Amsterdam Aug. 10. Sail Amsterdam 1995

N. Irish police braced for weekend Protestant parades

BELFAST (R) — Northern Ireland police plan a major security operation at the weekend to prevent trouble at two potential flashpoints: Protestant parades and the annual Burns Night. The police are braced for a weekend of Protestant parades in Belfast. The police are braced for a weekend of Protestant parades in Belfast. The police are braced for a weekend of Protestant parades in Belfast.

'Leakey tried to address rally before beating'

NAIROBI (AFP) — Kenyan police charged Friday that white conservationist Richard Leakey and other members of his opposition party had tried to address a rally in the central town of Nakuru before being beaten up Thursday by "angry members of the public." The attack, blamed by Leakey and other members of the Safina (Noah's ark in Swahili) Party on ruling party winners, was condemned by opposition politicians and the Law Society of Kenya. The Safina members — and journalists, including a British woman — were attacked by thugs wielding rubber whips and pick-axe handles. Some were hospitalized, and cars were smashed. Mr. Leakey said the Safina team had gone to Nakuru, 160 kilometres dissident in jail, and denied that they had made any attempt to address a rally. Rift Valley police chief F.K.A. Sang issued a statement however saying the Safina members had not notified authorities of "the intended rally" and that this "made it difficult for police to offer protection or prevent the incidence of violence." He said he had launched an investigation and that appropriate action would be taken against those found to have contravened the law.

Beijing executes 10 to ensure 'public order' at U.N. conference

BEIJING (AP) — More than 10 people convicted of murder, robbery and other crimes have been executed to ensure "public order" during the next month's U.N. women's conference, the official Beijing daily reported Thursday. China's security forces have been rounding up dissidents and expelling job-seekers and peddlers coming into Beijing from the countryside as part of the pre-conference crackdown. "To safeguard the capital's public order and ensure good public order during the upcoming world women's conference, the municipal first intermediate court quickly handled a batch of criminal cases," the newspaper said. "After being approved by the higher level people's court, the executions were carried out in recent days," the newspaper said. The condemned were led one by one to the killing ground. Criminals are usually put to death with a single gunshot to the head. Four of those executed had murdered six drivers to steal their cars, one killed to avenge a fight and another went on a spree of 59 robberies in which threatened people or tied them up. The U.N.'s fourth World Conference on Women runs Sept. 4-15. A 10-day meeting of private advocacy groups, the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) Forum, opens Aug. 30. Government officials have portrayed the conference as an opportunity to showcase China as a rising regional power. In the past few weeks, security forces have detained these political activists not already in custody. A private campaign demanding compensation for victims of Japanese atrocities during World War II has come under intense pressure. The leader, Tong Zeng, has been barred from attending an NGO forum discussion group on forced prostitution during the war. Police detained him Tuesday for 24 hours and warned him not to make trouble during the conference. The central and municipal governments also have ordered a crackdown on peasants coming into the city to find work. Tighter restrictions requiring temporary residents cards have been issued and police have set up check points around the city.

China to hold second missile test in a month

BEIJING (AP) — Experts say China's second series of missile tests in a month will have little military value but rather are aimed at intimidating Taiwan. The planned test firings of guided missiles and live artillery shells starting next week in the East China Sea north of Taiwan are the latest in a summer-long series of political and military tit-for-tat between China and the island it views as a renegade province. Beijing has been wary of Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui's efforts to gain greater international recognition for the economic powerhouse and was alarmed when Washington allowed him to make a private visit. China started a three-month military exercise on the coast opposite Taiwan soon after Mr. Lee's visit and then tried to increase the pressure with ballistic missile tests in mid-July. The announcement Thursday of the next planned tests, due to start Tuesday and last for 10 days, came after Taiwan scheduled army, navy and air force exercises in October. "This series of exercises is meant to intimidate Taiwan," said Eric Arnett, a military technology expert at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. "Although usually secretive about its military, Beijing reported the latest planned tests the same way it announced the previous ones: in a brief dispatch from the government news agency and on the national TV news." The Chinese People's Liberation Army will conduct exercises of guided missile and artillery live ammunition firing," the official Xinhua news agency said. Ships and airplanes were warned to stay out of the designated waters and airspace in the target area, 100 kilometres north of Taiwan. Experts say China tests missiles every year at this time, but normally notification is given quietly through diplomatic channels. They also noted that there is little military intelligence to be gained by repeated firings of missiles. Six surface-to-surface ballistic missiles were fired in the last test. In addition, China's military normally tests missiles on land, where greater secrecy can be maintained than in international waters, so there is no need for the target area to be so close to Taiwan, the experts said. "The East China Sea is a big ocean. They don't have to put it 100 clicks (kilometres) off Taiwan," said Bob Karniol, Asia-Pacific editor for Jane's defence weekly. China's military is believed to have played a greater role in policy-making toward Taiwan and the United States since the foreign ministry failed to prevent Mr. Lee's U.S. visit. Reports in the Hong Kong media citing unnamed sources have said China's top leaders have decided to keep the pressure on Mr. Lee and on Taiwan. Presidential elections are scheduled for next year and China is worried that Mr. Lee or opposition leaders will win, spurring calls for Taiwan to declare independence. Mr. Lee has moved his nationalist party away from its cold war-era claim to sovereignty over all of China. The nationalists took refuge on Taiwan after losing civil Communist Party-led forces in 1949.

Rival groups in Kashmir clash; one militant killed

SRINAGAR, India (R) — A Kashmiri separatist was killed and a Muslim worshipper wounded in a clash between two rival militant groups at a historic Muslim shrine, police said on Friday. Members of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen fired at each other late on Thursday at the Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar, the summer capital of India's Jammu and Kashmir state, army officials said. Police said a JKLF militant was killed and a woman worshipper wounded in the three-hour-long clash which began at about 9:30 p.m. (1600 GMT). The woman was among some 16,000 Muslims attending prayers at the shrine on the birthday of Prophet Mohammad, authorities said. The shrine displays what is believed to be a hair from Prophet Mohammad's beard. Security forces attempted to evacuate the worshippers from the lakeside shrine, which an estimated 200,000 Muslims visited on Thursday, officials said. The JKLF seeks Kashmir's independence from India, which rules two-thirds of the state, and Pakistan which controls the rest. The Hizb-ul-Mujahideen wants Kashmir to join Pakistan. JKLF leader Yasin Malik told Reuters this week his group was due on Friday to rejoin the all-party Hurriyat conference, which groups some 30 separatist units including Hizb-ul-Mujahideen. The JKLF broke with Hurriyat during a siege of Hazratbal by Indian security forces in 1993. It was not clear following the fighting if JKLF would rejoin the Hurriyat as planned. The clash between the two militant groups came at the end of a day of violence across the state, torn by a five-year-old separatist revolt against Indian rule in which police and hospital officials say more than 20,000 people have died. A bomb blast on Thursday killed a state government worker stationed along a route taken by Hindu pilgrims whose lives had been threatened by Harkat-ul-Ansar militants. A second bomb exploded elsewhere along the route, near the cave where the pilgrims prayed to Lord Shiva, but no one was wounded, police said. Harkat-ul-Ansar took responsibility for the explosions. Harkat-ul-Ansar said in a statement issued in Srinagar that it had set off two other bombs along the pilgrims' route, killing 18 paramilitary troops in one explosion and wounding 10 pilgrims and 20 troops in another. But the state government denied those blasts. "The militants are bluffing. They are totally lying," a spokesman said. On Friday an elderly man was wounded when militants threw a grenade at a moving security vehicle in Srinagar, police said. Some 30,000 pilgrims have begun returning from the Anarnath Cave, near the spot where five Western tourists were taken hostage in July. The Al-Faran militants holding the Westerners ignored appeals from separatist groups to respect Islamic teachings and free the captive tourists on Prophet Mohammad's birthday. "We are in contact with the kidnappers over the telephone. But so far there seem to be no changes in the situation," one official said. "The government is playing a waiting game." The governor of Jammu and Kashmir said two of the five hostages held by Al-Faran had apparently been wounded by their captors as they tried to escape. Al-Faran had earlier said two hostages were wounded in a clash with Indian forces, but the government denied any fighting.

Half of Japan's cabinet to visit controversial war shrine

TOKYO (AFP) — Half of Japan's cabinet plans to visit a controversial shrine to the war dead on Tuesday, the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, despite the threat of protests at home and abroad. The Kyoto news agency said Friday that 10 out of the 21 ministers from the three ruling coalition parties plan to pay homage at Yasukuni Shrine. The Shinto sanctuary, outside the Imperial Palace, is dedicated to those who died in Japan's modern wars — including wartime prime minister General Hideki Tojo and other Class-A war criminals hanged for the World War II role. Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, the Social Democratic Party (SDP) chief, and other top coalition leaders have said they will not visit the shrine on August 15, only a week after the reshuffle of the 13-month-old government. Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Yohei Kono, who leads the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), said he decided against the visit "considering the possible repercussions in foreign countries." The three coalition party leaders, also including Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura of the New Party Sakigake, did not visit the shrine last year although seven ministers of the then government did. Past visits to the shrine by Japan's premiers and ministers have sparked protests in China, South Korea and other Asian nations which still vividly remember Japan's war atrocities. Japanese citizens, including Buddhists and Christians, have also opposed the pilgrimage which they say violates the constitutional dictum of the separation of religion and the state. Shinto was enforced as the state religion during the war with the emperor worshipped as its demi-god. Prime Minister Murayama and the five other ministers from his leftist party, known for its pacifist creed, have vowed not to visit the shrine this year, Kyoto said. But many of the 13 ministers from the LDP will go, Kyoto added, including Construction Minister Yoshiro Mori, Minister of International Trade and Industry Ryutaro Hashimoto, Education Minister Yoshinobu Shimamura, Home Affairs Minister Takashi Fukaya and State Minister for Defence Seishiro Eto. "I visit the shrine every year, although not necessarily August 15," said the new education minister. Mr. Shimamura angered Asian neighbours Wednesday by saying it was not clear if Japan had waged a war of aggression in Asia and that Japan should not keep on apologising for its wartime actions. Mr. Hashimoto is head of a nationwide association for families of the war dead which, with a membership of some one million households, has given strong electoral support to the LDP, which alone ruled Japan for 38 straight years until losing the 1993 general election. The LDP cabinet ministers, however, stressed that they would visit the shrine only in an "unofficial capacity," Kyoto said. Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka, a Social Democrat, told reporters Friday, "I wish cabinet members would refrain from making official visits by taking into consideration circumstances at home and in other countries."

Three indicted in Oklahoma bombing

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Three former army friends with a grudge against the government have been indicted for the Oklahoma City bombing, the deadliest terrorist attack on U.S. soil. Timothy McVeigh, 27, and Terry Nichols, 40, each were charged Thursday with 11 counts in the April 9 bombing and could get the death penalty. A 4,800-pound (2,200-kilogrammes) fertiliser-and-fuel-oil bomb in a rented truck ripped apart the Alfred P. Murrah federal building, killing 168 people and injuring more than 500. Michael Fortier, a 26-year-old who struck a deal with prosecutors, was charged with four lesser offenses and immediately pleaded guilty. He could get up to 23 years in prison in return for testifying against the others. All three men were in the U.S. army together at Fort Riley, Kansas, and shared a deep distrust of the government and a love of weapons. Mr. McVeigh, who was decorated after fighting in the 1990-91 Gulf War, was arrested by Oklahoma highway police 90 minutes after the bombing on traffic charges. Mr. Nichols surrendered to police on April 21 and was originally held as a material witness in the bombing. The indictments followed a massive investigation by hundreds of agents into thousands of tips. After initially focusing on possible links to right-wing militias nationwide, investigators concluded they did not have enough evidence to charge any others. Privately, a senior federal official said that the attack was probably not a right-wing conspiracy but the work of maybe five malcontents, only two of whom did any "heavy lifting." "We will pursue every lead based on the evidence. But we have charged everyone involved that we have evidence of at this point," Attorney General Janet Reno said in Washington. Lead Prosecutor Joseph Hartzler said, "The grand jury found probable cause to believe that there are others involved. We will continue the investigation." The indictment does not specify a motive for the bombing, but prosecutors earlier alleged that McVeigh was angry at the government over the 1993 cult disaster at Waco, Texas. The bombing took place on the two-year anniversary of the assault and fire that ended in the deaths of at least 85 cult members. The grand jury returned the indictment in a courthouse across the street from the blast site. The indictment details a plot dating to September in which McVeigh and Nichols allegedly stockpiled ammonium fertiliser and other explosives in Kansas and Arizona, planned the robbery of a gun dealer in Arkansas to finance the attack, and together built the bomb. Mr. McVeigh is accused of detonating the bomb after parking the truck in front of the building. The charges include using weapons of mass destruction, destruction of federal property, and the killing of federal law officers who worked in the building. Mr. Fortier is charged with knowing about the plot and not alerting authorities, and transporting stolen firearms across state lines. Authorities said he admitted checking out the federal building in December with McVeigh. Mr. Fortier was taken into custody after pleading guilty before U.S. District Judge David Russell. He calmly admitted each offense and waived his right to a jury trial. Mr. McVeigh's attorney, Stephen Jones, warned against a "rush to judgment" and said he was concerned "that for political reasons, the indictments and prosecutions of a limited number of 'drifters' will be passed off to the public as a completely successful investigation resulting in the arrest of all concerned."

Search for bodies of 65 killed in Salvadoran plane crash continues

TEPETITAN, El Salvador (AP) — Searchers climbed the slopes of a volcano Thursday to recover the bodies of 65 people who were killed in El Salvador's deadliest air disaster. Aviateca flight 901 took off from Miami Wednesday en route to San Salvador and stopped in Guatemala City. It was approaching Comalapa Airport near San Salvador at about 7:30 p.m. when it crashed near the top of the 7,000-foot (2,133-metre) Chichontepec volcano, also known as San Vicente, about 37 miles east of San Salvador. Aviateca did not immediately release the names of the 58 passengers and seven crew members on board. The Boeing 737 was to have gone on to Managua, Nicaragua, and San Jose, Costa Rica. Brazil's ambassador to Nicaragua, Genaro Antonio Mucio, and his wife, Magdalena, were killed, said Victor Hugo Irrigay, an official at the Brazilian embassy in San Salvador. Denmark's ambassador to Nicaragua, Palle Marker, and his embassy's first secretary, Peter Kragh, also were among the victims, the Danish foreign ministry said. The cause of the crash was not known. Gladys Miranda de Valencia, the sister of pilot Axel Byron Miranda Herrera, said Aviateca told her he had reported unspecified mechanical problems a few minutes before the crash. Aviateca spokesman Mauricio Rodriguez said it was raining "very, very hard" at the time of the crash. Heavy fog prevented helicopters from reaching the crash site Thursday, and bad roads stopped rescue vehicles miles from the wreckage. At six miles (9.7 kilometres) away, the village of Tepetitán is the closest settlement to the crash site. About 400 people were involved in the search, Mr. Gomez said.

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Sound asylum

JORDAN'S DECISION to grant Iraqi Minister of Minerals and Industries Lt.-General Hussein Kamel Hassan and his brother Col. Saddam Hassan and their families and entourage asylum in the country is defensible morally and legally. When people so close to the Iraqi president choose to seek haven in Jordan, then there is little the Jordanian leadership can do except to grant them their wish, regardless of the political cost or benefit involved in the process.

For years now we have been hearing about one wave of repression in Iraq after the other with many Iraqi citizens literally put to summary executions for even the flimsiest reasons or for appearing to hold counter views on how to govern the country and deal with the aftermath of the Gulf war. The Iraqi people also have suffered too much and for too long because of the U.N. sanctions imposed on Baghdad as all efforts to ease their agonies have ended in vain. His Majesty King Hussein throughout this period has been making every possible effort to lift or at least to ease those sanctions often in the face of stiff opposition from several Arab and international quarters. Likewise Jordan has defended what Iraq has already done to meet its obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions as more than sufficient to begin the process of rehabilitating it internationally and regionally.

There is also the legal side to this issue. Under international law, no state may refuse the defection to its territory of a citizen from a foreign country without due process of the law. The "non-refoulement" principle requiring governments to allow the entry of foreign nationals asking for political asylum when they allege repression and persecution or fear of basic human rights violations is so well established that it has become part of the customary international law. The case of Baghdad against according the Iraqi defectors asylum and safe haven in Jordan is weakened by repeated U.N. condemnation of Iraq's human rights record. Under the circumstances, Jordan had no choice under international norms but to grant the Iraqi people in question asylum pending the resolution of their status at a later stage.

This episode need not disturb the existing relationship between the two countries. Its fallout can still be contained by the Iraqi government by taking appropriate remedial steps in the direction of making such defections unnecessary.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IBRAHIM AL ABSI, a writer in Al Ra'i, accused the Israeli government of working against peace and of trying to make it impossible for the Palestinian people to regain control of their homeland. After more than 12 months of delay and procrastination, the Israeli government has not yet agreed on a programme for the redeployment of Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to make way for the expansion of the Palestine National Authority (PNA) self-rule in these areas, said the writer. Having realised that the Palestinian negotiators did not give up the talks in despair in the face of Israel's tactics but have been showing patience with the Israeli postponements and delays the Israeli government resorted to new tactics, namely the settlers' protests, said the writer. He said that the Israeli government, which had repeatedly stressed its desire to maintain and protect the settlements in Arab lands, has allowed the settlers to stage violent protests just to show the world that it is finding it difficult to end its presence in Arab territories and that the Israeli people refuse to give up the occupied land. But, the writer said, with such tactics, the Israeli government cannot escape from the moment of truth and has to know that a retreat from the path of peace and failure to implement the agreements with the Palestinians are bound to jeopardise the whole peace process.

A WRITER in Al Dustour called on the government to organise a national conference to deal with the question of university education in Jordan and to pave the way for granting all citizens the right to acquire higher education. Fakhri Kassar said that the state universities will this year accept only one third of those who passed the Tawjihi examinations, leaving the rest to face a grim future. While the state universities base their acceptance of students on the basis of grades, the private universities have a different criteria, namely the students' financial situation, said the writer. He said that by allowing the private universities to accept only those students who can pay high fees, the Council of Higher Education is helping to keep the poor and deprived of education, simply because they cannot afford to pay for it. If the government cannot subsidise higher education as it has been doing with the basic food commodities, then, said the writer, it can at least interfere and put an end to the private universities' greed for high fees and put an end to their lust for massing fortunes at the expense of Jordanian citizens.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

Jewish extremism poses real threat to Jerusalem's identity

THE RECENT ruling by the Israeli supreme court that Jews can "tour" the Haram Al Sharif complex, which houses some of the holiest shrines in Islam, cannot be seen in isolation from the campaign launched by religious and political extremists in Israel to "cleanse" the area for the "coming of the Messiah." The court ruling is the first step towards allowing the alliance, led by the Likud Party on the political level and half a dozen extremist groups on the religious level, to destroy the Al Aqsa and Dome of the Rock shrines in the Haram Al Sharif complex.

Although not much of it is public knowledge, tens of millions of dollars have been raised for these groups and spent on acquiring Palestinian land and buildings in Jerusalem. Now, the target of the alliance is to "prepare" the Haram Al Sharif compound, which Jews call "Temple Mount," to be the site for a Jewish temple where the Messiah could land after Aqsa and Dome of the Rock are destroyed.

For these groups, the presence of Muslims and Islamic shrines make the site "unclean," and, as such, the first priority of the Israeli extremist alliance is to eliminate that presence.

The very thought of the alliance gives us shivers in Jordan. The groups could do serious harm not only to the Islamic shrines in Jerusalem but also to the entire Arab-Israeli peace process in the event of a Likud victory in next year's general elections.

Some of the groups are also known to be plotting to blow up the Islamic holy shrines.

Now, the Israeli supreme court has allowed Jews to "tour" the area but not to pray there. In the future it could also "allow" them to pray at the site in what will be a fait accompli for Jews to preempt any logical negotiations on the future status of Jerusalem.

Overlooked in the whole affair is the fact that no Israeli court is legally empowered to make any decision concerning Arab East Jerusalem since the city is an occupied territory, where, under international laws and conventions, the occupying power cannot impose its rules and regulations.

But international laws and regulations have never dissuaded Israel from pursuing its own designs in the occupied territories. That, however, should not stop us from pressing our case in that framework in the international scene.

The latest we heard from the Israeli government on Jerusalem was the proposal by the minister of religious affairs that the so-called "Hebron formula" be applied at Haram Al Sharif. That means a sharing of the compound among Muslims and Jews along the same lines as the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron.

As far as Muslims are concerned, the proposal is non-starter and should not even be discussed. Haram Al Sharif is Muslim and should remain Muslim. It is as simple as that.

At the very outset of the Middle East peace process, it was a well-known fact that Jerusalem would be among the thorniest issues on the table for the negotiators, but there was also an understanding that Israel would not change the status and features of the Holy City until negotiations work out a formula acceptable to all and

that satisfies the political and territorial rights of the Palestinians. The letter of assurance given by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat that Israel would not change the features of Jerusalem during the interim period as stipulated in the Oslo accord is the best evidence yet of this understanding.

As such, the government of Labour leader Yithak Rabin cannot shirk its responsibility to ensure that no Israeli, extremist or otherwise, tries to violate this undertaking.

Very unfortunately, Israel has not lived up to that responsibility.

We recall that the Israeli government froze a decision to appropriate Palestinian land in Jerusalem early this year after an international and regional hue and cry. However, the fact was that it was the personal intervention by His Majesty King Hussein, through a letter to Mr. Rabin, that was the main reason that prompted the Israeli government to freeze the move. The reasons were obvious. First of all, the King reminded Mr. Rabin of the seriousness with which Arabs and Muslims view the issue of Jerusalem and warned that the entire peace process stood to suffer if Israel were to go ahead with the appropriation. Second, the King told Mr. Rabin, the Israeli move would pose serious obstacles to advancing the process of normalisation of relations between Jordan and Israel.

Over and above everything else is the reality that Israel cannot simply go ahead and do what it wants in Arab East Jerusalem. The city belongs to Arabs and Muslims in a religious and historical context.

For political purposes, the Israeli move to free the seizure of Palestinian land in Jerusalem was described as resulting from threats by Arab legislators to withhold support for the government in a confidence vote. But in reality it came from Mr. Rabin's understanding of the seriousness of the situation as raised by His Majesty.

Indeed, the Palestinians have their political rights in the city. And we in Jordan support those rights with all our might, and what we undertake to ensure that Israel does not preempt logical negotiations on Jerusalem by creating irreversible facts on the ground should be seen in that spirit by our Palestinian brothers.

Furthermore, we have seen that the Palestinians could be easily outmanoeuvred and manipulated by the Israelis. The repeated delays in implementing the Oslo accord speak volumes in this regard.

That leaves Jordan to launch a fresh initiative to ensure that Israel does not create new facts on the ground in Jerusalem. This would require Jordan to insist that the Rabin government adopt measures that would forestall any attempt by any Israeli group to interfere with the features of Arab East Jerusalem until the status of the city is determined through negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

The language that Jordan speaks in this context is not strange to Israel. If Mr. Rabin does not appreciate it, then he should also be prepared to the fallout — a total collapse of the very peace process that he has been nurturing since 1992.

Surprise shake-up is first fruit of cautious reform

Michael Field assesses the political significance of last week's wholesale ministerial changes in S. Arabia

THE SEVEN ministerial changes announced in Saudi Arabia last week represent perhaps the biggest shake-up in the kingdom's government since the assassination of King Faisal in 1975.

To most Saudis and the outside world, they have come as a surprise — though the militant Islamist Saudi opposition, the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights, which operates out of London, has known for some days that changes were in prospect.

All of the ministers concerned count in Saudi terms as important civil servants, not as people exercising real power which is the domain of the royal family. The ministers of defence, the interior and foreign affairs as well as the office of prime minister, which is vested in the king, remain in the hands of the Saudi family.

The Saudis, who created the kingdom in the first 30 years of this century and named it after themselves, remain absolute rulers of the country. They are seen by ordinary Saudis as being "the state."

Last week's changes are related to a package of reforms, including the establishment of a consultative council (Majlis Al Shura), a set of secular regulations for government and changes to the way the provinces are governed, introduced by King Fahd in 1991 and 1992.

When these reforms were announced, the king said that in future ministerial appointments would be for just four years, rather than indefinitely, unless he

wished to make exceptions. The first fruit of the new system has now been seen.

The changes will be popular in Saudi Arabia, not because the old ministers were seen to be incompetent. Mohammad Abn Al Khail, who had run the ministry of finance for 30 years was able and highly respected — but because Saudis have become cynical about the sheer immobility of their government.

The lack of new blood in the council of ministers (the cabinet) was one of the standard grumbles of young Saudis — including young princes — along with the poor quality of the media and, until the institution of the Majlis Al Shura in 1993, the lack of any system of consultation.

The changes are not likely to significantly affect Saudi policies, although there has been mounting concern over the ability of the government to cut spending and reduce its \$4 billion budget deficit, exacerbated by the \$60 billion cost of the Gulf war which wiped out most of the country's available reserves.

They are most important as an indication of the king's constitutional thinking. King Fahd has traditionally favoured continuity among his civil servants. Having become used to seeing a civil servant in a

particular ministry, he has liked to keep him there. Now, it seems that in spite of his age, illhealth and fatigue, the king is determined to push on with the process of very cautious change which he introduced in 1991.

Three of the individual changes are particularly interesting. Hisham Nazar has been replaced as minister of oil in part because he was due to retire. He had had 30 years in government, as minister of planning before he moved to oil after the dismissal of Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani in 1987.

In the latter position, he had offended some officials in his ministry and had been the subject of speculation about his dismissal. But, from the point of view of the king, he was a sound minister because he did as he was told.

His replacement, Ali Nuaimi, who has been in the production company, Aramco, for most of his working life, should be equally competent. As a former diplomat in London put it: "The main job of a Saudi oil minister is to go to meetings."

Suleiman Al Suleim moves from commerce to the ministry of finance with a reputation for integrity, which was also a character-

istic of his predecessor.

The replacement of General Ali Shaer as minister of information by his deputy, Fouad Al Farsi, could be the most important change from the point of view of the daily lives of Saudis.

Gen. Shaer, who was close to the king, saw his job in mainly authoritarian terms. He had little time for foreign journalists and preferred that they be kept out of the kingdom. In managing domestic news, he saw it as his job to prevent there being any criticism of the government and to see, if possible, that only good news should be served to the Saudi public.

He did not allow the Saudi press to report the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait after it had happened. He was known by the public as "the minister of denials."

Fouad Al Farsi is believed to be much more interested in promoting a good image of the kingdom. He is a public relations man rather than a soldier and he has been responsible for the series of highly successful foreign exhibitions of the kingdom's development.

The Financial Times

THE WEEK IN PRINT

All Arabs must work to end suffering of Iraqi people

By Elia Nasrallah

THE LOCAL Arabic press last week gave prominence to the situation in Iraq, the Jewish settlers' attempts at storming the Al Haram Al Sharif and the Middle East peace process.

When members of the Iraqi President's family and closest military aides choose to flee their country and seek refuge in Jordan, one can logically conclude that the situation in Iraq has deteriorated to such a degree that the whole nation and not only the ordinary people is no more able to live through the ordeal any longer, said Saleh Qallab in Al Dustour. The writer said that no one can say that Hussein Kamel Hassan, the Iraqi president's son in law, has had no loyalty to his country or its leadership. But we ought to admit that the Iraqi people have been paying the price of the grave blunder of its leaders, said the writer. He said the time has come for the Iraqi people to live a normal life and the Iraqi regime to place the nation's interest above all other considerations.

Also writing in Al Dustour, Mohammad Kawash said that His Majesty King Hussein's declared intention to exert efforts towards ending the plight of the Iraqi people and lifting the sanctions should be backed by all the Arab leaders. The writer said that the Jordanian initiative is designed to end the sufferings of the Iraqi people, stressing that justice to the Iraqi people should not be allowed to continue indefinitely. The world community should free itself from the American hegemony and act in a humane manner now that the Iraqis have complied with all U.N. Security Council resolutions, said the writer. He said that Washington should stop punishing a whole people and listen to the calls of reason.

Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in Al Ra'i, said the United States stands out alone in pursuing efforts to maintain the sanctions on Iraq. With its adamant stand against Iraq, the United States finds itself alone in this position at a time when the whole world community realises that the Iraqis have complied with all U.N. resolutions, said the writer. At the same time, one can only sympathise with the Iraqi people, who, said the writer, are in need of political freedom and national unity and institutions that can guarantee the rule of the law in all matters. We hope that the Iraqi regime will reconsider its policies, cooperate with international organisations and win the support of all nations for an end to the sanctions.

Addressing the Israeli practices in the occupied Arab lands and the Jewish settlers' attacks on Arabs and holy places, Tareq Masarweh said that the Israeli Supreme Court's decision allowing the so-called Temple Mount Faithfuls to enter Al Haram Al Sharif should not be forgotten because it was that court, which paved the ground for the attack. The columnist, who writes in Al Ra'i daily, said that we should also remember that while the Arab and Islamic countries are silent about the attack, Jordan alone has voiced condemnation and it was the Jordanian leadership that had warned of such attacks and had sought to keep the holy shrines under its protection. The writer said that the Israeli court ruling is bound to open the door for the Israeli government to partition the holy shrines in Jerusalem between Jews and Muslims as it had done to the Al Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron.

Taher Al Adwan said that the Israeli leaders have obviously failed to change the Israeli people's stand vis-a-vis future coexistence with the Arabs because opinion polls have revealed that the majority of Israelis do not support peace with the Arabs. The columnist in Al Dustour said that the attacks by settlers on the Arab population and their property and, above all, their holy shrines demonstrate the real hatred in the hearts of the Jewish population against the Palestinians and the Arabs and Muslims in general. In comparison, said the writer, the Arab governments and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have taken definite and irrevocable steps towards peace with Israel, but, regrettably, the Rabin government has made no reciprocal moves, hence, he said, are the on-going hostile actions against the Arabs in the occupied Arab lands.

Condemning the Jewish settlers' attacks on the Arabs in Palestinian lands, Musa Keilani said in Al Dustour that the so-called Temple Mount Faithfuls are backed by Jewish and Zionist organisations around the world, which continue to pour into Israel millions of dollars. The writer said that these organisations are paid to uproot the Arabs from Palestine and achieve Zionism's objectives. The writer said that the extremists who have tried to storm Al Haram Al Sharif are the same elements who tried to burn Al Aqsa mosque in 1968 and who were behind the slaughter of the worshippers in Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron. He said their attacks now are aimed at forcing the Rabin government to partition the holy shrines between Jews and Muslims.

Hussein Abn Roman, a writer in Al Ra'i, criticised the U.S. administration for failing to see to it that the Oslo agreement is implemented and for condoning the Israeli government's procrastinations in finalising an agreement with the Palestinians on widening the self-rule area in Palestine. The writer said that the U.S. administration is trying to shirk its responsibilities in matters related to the Middle East question but is committing itself to ensure the perpetuation of sanctions imposed on Iraq and Libya. He said that in exchange for our agreeing to a peace treaty with Israel, we find that the American president is turning his back to promises to pursue efforts to achieve a comprehensive peace between the Jewish state and the Arab countries.

While the Israeli government is dragging its feet on implementing the second phase of the Oslo agreement with the Palestinians, it is allowing the settlers to commit atrocities against the Arab population and to squat on their lands and storm their holy shrines, said Mahmoud Rimawi in Al Ra'i daily. He said that the provocative actions of the settlers and the Temple Mount Faithfuls are bound to cause complications for the Palestine National Authority in its drive to wrest Palestinian rights from the Israelis. The writer said that while condoning these actions, the Israeli government keeps expressing its concern over security matters for the Israeli society and the settlers, who continue to occupy Arab lands, depriving their legitimate owners of their livelihoods and their homeland.

Taher Al Adwan, a writer in Al Dustour, said that the arrest of Musa Abu Marzuk in the United States for no crime he committed was an outrageous act and one that is bound to trigger confrontation with the Islamic movements in the Arab World. The writer said that as a leader of the political wing of Hamas, Mr. Abu Marzuk is no criminal but a freedom fighter and his arrest is unjustified under any American law. He said that if anything, the American move was bound to cause further complications for the peace process, which it claims to be sponsoring.

Iraqis give

(Continued from page 1)
dams' hometown and to the president's father-in-law. But it was a can be engaged in a conflict with the brothers and sons of the late Saddam for power. In an event, the blow to the regime of Saddam and was seen as a strong sign of trouble in the ruling circle in Baghdad.

International news agencies reported from Amman and Dubai that Hussein Kamel Hassan, a general, was fired as minister of minerals and industries as head of the Military Industrialisation Organisation, established contacts with representatives of Iraqi opposition groups and the government.

The U.S. government is interested in the fact that the defection, which was a major step, was significant (defection) in the Gulf war, said an official quoted by the Associated Press.

U.S. military officials in Amman are discussing Hussein Kamel Hassan's move from Iraq to Jordan, especially biological and chemical weapons talks have not been held for some time. The next 24 hours, the official said.

A number of meetings will take place in Amman.

Features

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1995 7

Sleaze rubs shine off Germany's moral halo

A string of corruption values of honesty and claims against business duty for a 'backhander' leaders suggests that Ger- society,' Denis Staunton mans are abandoning old reports from Frankfurt.

AS A top businessman and board member of the Opel car giant, Peter Enderle was one of Germany's heroes, one of the men who built the country's wealth and made it great again. The company planned a huge party to celebrate his 60th birthday last month; many of the leading figures in Germany's business and political worlds had been invited — to the Opel factory at Russelsheim, outside Frankfurt — and the Federal Interior Minister, Manfred Kanther, was due to propose the toast.

But 48 hours before the big day, Opel announced that it was all off — the party was cancelled, and Herr Enderle departed for a sudden and unexpected holiday.

The first sign of trouble had been when detectives turned up demanding to search his home, his car and his office. They suspected him of being one of 40 Opel managers to have accepted bribes from suppliers in return for Opel contracts. The 'main accusation is that the Hoch-tief construction firm billed Opel for \$9,500 worth of repairs to Enderle's home in Wiesbaden.

Mr. Enderle insists that he did nothing wrong but he resigned within a week, along with two members of Opel's supervisory board. News came from Detroit that another former Opel manager who was under investigation had committed suicide.

It was revealed a few days later that managers at Ford in Cologne and at Volkswagen in Wolfsburg had taken bribes of up to \$75,000 from suppliers and that detectives are investigating corrupt practices at such pillars of German industry as Siemens, BASF and Nixdorf.

These revelations of sleaze at the heart of the German economy have come as a severe shock to a nation which has traditionally revered industrialists and where economic success is seen as the central national achievement of the past 50 years.

"It was our secret victory after the military defeat in the World War II and the moral defeat represented by Auschwitz, and this economic success helped to compensate for the feeling of inferiority felt by many Germans in the post-war years," according to Horst-Eberhard Richter, a German psychoanalyst and the author of a best-selling book about corruption.

"It gives us a sense of identity to know that the strength of the D-Mark makes Europe dependent on us, or that you would no longer be able to make Rolls-Royce or Jaguar cars in Britain if it wasn't for BMW buying up the factory."

The tall, gleaming temples of corporate finance which dominate the skyline of Frankfurt testify to the fact that this is a city dedicated to making, spending and manipulating money. According to the head of the city's corruption squad, Wolfgang Schuppensteiner, there are few things in Frankfurt that money cannot buy.

A driving licence can be obtained for £1,300, he said, and £2,200 is the going rate for a residence permit allowing a foreigner to work in Germany. "Licences for bars, restaurants and nightclubs can all be arranged at a price and you can quite easily buy your way into a council job. Everything is organised on a normal commercial basis," he said.

Mr. Schuppensteiner has uncovered more than 1,500 cases of corruption involving public servants in Frankfurt since his squad was set up in 1988, leading to almost 300 convictions and prison sentences of up to seven years. He says that, although Germany is still on a par with countries such as Italy in the corruption stakes, the problem has grown at an astonishing rate in recent years.

"We have convicted mayors of towns for taking bribes. That is a development which would have been unthinkable in Germany a few years ago — that a mayor, who occupied a relatively senior position in society, would allow himself to be bribed like some petty official... Corruption now goes right through the hierarchy."

Fresh revelations of sleaze in German industry have been appearing almost weekly throughout the summer, often centring on companies and financial institutions previously regarded as above reproach.

The public response to all these scandals has been strongly emotional and negative," says "Schuppensteiner. "People are outraged that corruption can go on in the heart of society and they are fearful of the damage this trend can do to the country as a whole."

The news magazine Der Spiegel declared that Germany was on its way to becoming a "backhander society" and the liberal weekly Die Zeit asked if morality in Germany was going to seed.

The Prussian public servant was viewed until recently as the embodiment of the traditional virtues of hard work, a sense of duty, orderliness, thrift and cleanliness. Germans were willing to forgive the officiousness of railwaymen, post office clerks and policemen who saw their reward more in terms of financial gain. Mr. Schuppensteiner says that, as public officials have fallen in public esteem, they have become more susceptible to temptation.

"It is all about improving their standard of living — houses, cars, trips around the world, a better life — and for that you need a lot of money. Most public servants are still incorruptible but too many are out to supplement their salaries in any way they can, regardless of the morality," he says.

A German public servant who accepts a bribe can face dismissal or jail but the private company which corrupts him will often go unpunished. German companies that bribe clients overseas can write off the bribe against tax as a "necessary expense" and some management consultants offer seminars on sleaze, schooling executives in the legal world of bribery.

The latest scandals come as German managers are seeking to "shake off their stuffy, button-down" image, sometimes with untoward results. Jürgen Schrempf, the new boss at Daimler-Benz, hit the headlines last month when police arrested him on the Spanish Steps in Rome, during a high-spirited evening with two fellow executives and a large bottle of red wine.

Mr. Schrempf's apology to the 250,000 employees of Daimler-Benz in Germany did nothing to allay public unease that the new management style may be getting out of control.

"I think the younger generation is very sober and modest but there is another level which wants exactly the opposite of the traditional German manager who is withdrawn and shies away from publicity," says Professor Herbert Simon, a former lecturer at Harvard Business School who advises some of Germany's top companies on strategy and marketing.

he said, adding that "it was their choice (to come here) and we have expressed our acceptance of whatever the Iraqi people accept for themselves."

Washington on Thursday announced that the U.S. supports Jordan's "courageous" move in granting the Iraqis refuge. U.S. President Bill Clinton told a press conference at the White House that the "U.S. will back Jordan" if it comes under any threat from Iraq.

The American leader said that he received a telephone call from King Hussein concerning the defections on Tuesday.

"King Hussein's decision, located where he is, to grant asylum to those individuals is clearly an act of real courage, and I have assured him and told him that we would stand behind Jordan," Mr. Clinton said at a White House news conference.

Mr. Clinton said he had discussed the defections with King Hussein in a telephone conversation on Tuesday night, and that while he did not want to create undue alarm about possible retaliation, the situation had to be worrisome for Jordan because "we know that Saddam Hussein has been unpredictable in the past."

"It should be clear that the United States considers Jordan our ally and entitled to our protection if their security is threatened as a result of this incident," he said.

Mr. Clinton reminded reporters — and at the same time, warned Baghdad — that the United States can rapidly project military power



very same executives who had insisted on painful cost-cutting.

"About the individual motives one can only speculate because in material terms these people did not need to do it. They were in such high positions that you would think power was much more important to them than material gain. The workers were very disappointed because they have made big sacrifices to cut costs and to keep the company profitable," he says.

Business analysts say the solution to Germany's corruption problem lies in introducing better controls over where corporate money is going and how contracts are being awarded. Improving auditing standards would help, but much of the responsibility for keeping a company clean lies with its supervisory board, which keeps a close eye on managers.

The big German banks have representatives on the supervisory boards of almost every big company, but when Deutsche Bank was contacted last week, nobody was prepared to talk about corruption. "What gave you the idea of asking us?" spluttered a spokesman. "We've got nothing to do with any of these scandals and you can easily get your fingers burnt by commenting on them."

But Professor Simon insists that the banks bear a large share of the responsibility, not just for the rise in corruption but for large-scale fraud cases such as the collapse of Jürgen Schneider's multi-billion-mark property empire last year. He says the relationship between bankers and businessmen is often too cosy for anybody's good.

The Observer

"You should keep some distance from the people you're trying to control. If they belong to the same clubs and move in the same social circle as you it is more difficult to judge them properly. I think that was part of the problem with Mr. Schneider. Too many people were impressed by his glamour and by the parties he gave," he says.

Mr. Schneider is currently sweating in a Florida prison cell, awaiting extradition to Germany on fraud charges following his arrest after almost a year on the run.

Police say that Peter Graf, father of Germany's tennis star Steffi Graf, was also about to flee the country when they arrested him last week for alleged tax fraud. Mr. Richter says the claims against Steffi and her father represent a further blow to the German self-image as a nation of upright, incorruptible citizens.

Steffi was a role model for the Germans, an image of purity. You never saw her being inconsiderate. She never spoke nastily like so many others and now suddenly she is implicated in this corruption and we hear that she could end up in jail as well as her father," he said.

Count Johann Lamb-dorff, an economist at Göttingen University who studies corruption, believes that the wave of revelations may have more to do with a new public awareness of the problem than with any real increase in sleaze. He says that, until 1989, the presence of communism behind the Berlin Wall meant that West Germany felt under pressure to suggest that capitalism was beyond reproach.

"Maybe for that reason more was brushed under the carpet in the past. It could be that the 1990s have seen a return to a kind of civil society and we are most alert and more determined to do something about corruption."

But for Mr. Schuppensteiner, the spate of scandals provides support for a message he has been trying to convey to businessmen for years — that corrupt practices can damage their company as much as society in general. He estimates that corruption in the building trade pushes up the cost of public works by almost 30 per cent and he says the long-term effects on the economy could be much more serious.

"Corruption means hindering competition. It is not the company that performs best which wins the contract but the one that bribes the most. Why should a company bother to make better products if they can sell their bad products with bribes?"

The Observer

Iraqis given Jordan asylum

(Continued from page 1)

dam's hometown, and related to the president's father, had defected. But it was known that members of the Al Majid clan were engaged in a running conflict with the half brothers and sons of President Saddam for power.

In any event, the defections were seen as a serious blow to the regime of President Saddam and was taken as a strong sign of serious trouble in the ruling circles in Baghdad.

International news agencies reported from Amman and Dubai that Hussein Kamel Al Hassan, a general who was fired as minister of minerals and industries and as head of the Military Industrialisation Organisation, had established contacts with representatives of Iraqi opposition groups and the U.S. government.

The United States is very interested in any information that Gen. Hassan can provide," the official added.

Diplomatic sources quoted by Reuters confirmed U.S. officials were in contact with the Iraqis.

The sources, also speaking on condition they not be identified, said the case was getting extremely serious treatment by U.S. officials. President Bill Clinton was personally involved, assuring Jordan of protection if Iraq issues threats over the affair.

A former Iraqi general said in Damascus, Syria, that Hassan told him he wants to meet Iraqi opposition leaders to plan the Baghdad regime's overthrow.

Wafiq Al Samarra, who defected in December after President Saddam dismissed him as head of military intelligence, said Thursday he had spoken to Mr. Hassan by telephone in Amman.

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er in the Middle East, as was shown last fall when Iraq threatened to reinstate Kuwait.

As if to underline his pledge to Jordan, the Defence Department said U.S. Marines would conduct scheduled manoeuvres with Jordanian forces beginning next week.

Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon said the August 14-30 joint exercises in and near Jordan had been planned before the Iraqi defections.

In what politicians say as sign that Baghdad was not contemplating any aggression against the Kingdom, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported that President Saddam congratulated King Hussein on the anniversary of his accession to the throne. It said that a congratulatory cable from the Iraqi president to the King wished for "continued progress and growth for the fraternal ties between the two countries."

He added his wishes "to see the brotherly relations between Jordan and Iraq develop and strengthen to the benefit of our two peoples and the entire Arab Nation."

The telegram concluded "peace be upon you, your brother, Saddam Hussein."

Mr. Hassan has been quoted by official sources as accusing the Iraqi regime of "losing all credibility both on the Arab and international scales," and that he has already started contacts with other Iraqis both in and outside Iraq to help end the suffering of the Iraqi people by "formulating programme that guarantees radical changes to the situation in

Iraq."

INA reported Thursday that the industry minister has been dismissed but gave no reason for the decision, which reports from Baghdad said was issued after President Saddam found out about the defection.

"General Hussein Kamel Hassan, minister of industry and minerals and director of the military industrialisation organisation, has been relieved of his post," INA said, adding that the decree was issued Wednesday and announced Thursday.

According to informed sources, Mr. Hassan and his companions crossed the Iraqi border into Jordan by land as they would have been unable to fly out of Iraq due to United Nations sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

Mr. Hassan is the third relative of President Saddam Hussein to be dismissed from the cabinet in three and a half months. The previous ministers to go were Interior Minister Wathban Ibrahim Al Tikriti and Defence Minister Ali Hassan Majied, President Saddam's half brother and cousin respectively.

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Israel, PLO clear hurdles

(Continued from page 1)

lish the full agreement before it is signed.

Also Friday, Likud collected the signatures of one-fourth of Israel's 120 legislators needed to call parliament back from summer recess for a special debate on the partial agreement. The debate was to be held next week.

"This is an accord of surrender, made by a government that has no mandate and no popular majority," a Likud statement said.

On prisoners, Mr. Peres said numbers weren't discussed. The criteria for release would be discussed later. Some 6,500 Palestinians are held in Israeli jails, most on charges of anti-Israeli violence or membership in formerly outlawed groups.

Big powers

(Continued from page 1)

"But we'll bring the hell back to the Croats," vowed Ms. Trpevic, a native of Topusko, a town just south of Zagreb. "Vengeance, that's what most of those people have on their minds."

As she spoke, hundreds of refugees drove vehicles with broken windows into Dobanovi, some 30 kilometres west of Belgrade, where Serbian authorities had set up registration and reception areas.

About 800 refugees an hour arrived during Friday morning. Local Red Cross officials said 80,000 refugees had arrived in Serbia since the Croatian army attacked rebel-held areas one week ago, setting off the biggest civilian exodus in four years of war in the former Yugoslavia.

Police and soldiers protected the columns of defeated Serbs after angry mobs stoned refugees, prompting a sharp rebuke to Zagreb by the United Nations Security Council.

The Observer

Jordan reaps peace dividend in increased tourism

AMMAN (AFP) — Peace with Israel has given a shot in the arm to Jordan's long-dormant tourism industry as tens of thousands of more visitors a year, including Israelis, come to see the country's sites.

"Peace has obviously encouraged tourists coming from Israel, the United States, Canada and Europe to visit Jordan," Tourism Minister Abdul Ilah Khatib told AFP.

The number of tourists shot up to 446,000 in the first half of 1995, some 40 per cent higher than the 317,000 who

came in the same period of 1994, Mr. Khatib said.

"The tourism sector, which brought in \$60 million in receipts in 1994, should earn even more in 1995 with the higher numbers of visitors," he added.

Some 52,000 Israelis — 11 per cent of all the visitors in the first half of 1995 — ventured across the border that had been closed to them for 40 years until the peace treaty signed on Oct. 26.

Most take short overnight trips, especially to the Nabataean city of Petra in the

south or the Roman ruins of Jerash north of Amman.

Jordanian entrepreneurs have moved to adapt to the new clientele. In early June, one Amman businessman converted his restaurant into the country's first kosher establishment.

"The tourism industry has been somewhat neglected in past years," Mr. Khatib said. "But it should see a leap forward in the future. The archaeological and natural potential is great and has not been well exploited."

Jordan boasts some 600 antiquity sites, the most

famous of them Jerash and Petra, a 6th-century B.C. "lost city" carved in the rose-coloured rock of Jordan's southern mountains.

"Dozens of investors" are also honing in on the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba at the Kingdom's extreme south as prime tourism zones.

A total of 25 new hotels are currently being built across the country, with a total investment of \$83 million. They will add 3,883 beds to the current capacity of 15,400.

Much of the new investment focuses on the port of

Aqaba, which tourism developers see as part of a new "Golf Riviera," stretching from Aqaba, through the Israeli port of Eilat to the Egyptian Sinai resort of Sharm Al Sheikh.

"Our policy is to seek a balance between preserving archaeological and natural sites and exploiting them economically," said Mr. Khatib.

The tourism minister said Jordan would also seek to draw more tourists from the wealthy Gulf monarchies, pointing out that their numbers remained constant at

Dollar shoots up to 5-month high vs. yen

TOKYO (R) — The dollar shot to a five-month high against the yen and surged against European currencies Friday, powered by political and technical factors, although the rally cooled off late in the day.

The dollar surged above the key 93 yen barrier and overcame resistance at 1.4250 marks in Tokyo trade, propelled by heavy bids by overseas operators that helped the dollar accelerate its recent upward swing.

The Japanese government welcomed the yen's renewed retreat, with Trade Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto telling reporters he wanted the dollar to make up still more ground on the yen.

By midday the dollar had hit 93.80 yen, its highest level since March 6, before falling back slightly on profit-taking and exporter sales. It was quoted at 93.25/35 yen at 0828 GMT.

It also rose as high as 1.4320 marks, its highest against the German currency since June 1. It eased later, and was quoted at around 1.4277/82 marks.

The dollar also jumped against the Swiss franc, touching a high of around 1.1882 against a New York close of 1.1760/70.

Although the dollar has risen sharply against the yen over the past few days, its weakness against the mark and other European currencies had kept a lid on gains. But dealers said Friday's move seemed to signal a genuine upward trend.

"You can definitely say today's dollar is strong across the board, and it will probably rise very fast," said Tomio Kudo, chief customer dealer at Dresdner Bank A.G. in Tokyo.

"Five months ago, the dollar fell very suddenly from

around 96 yen to 91 yen with no resistance. This created a vacuum through which it may rise even faster than we expect," echoed Mitsuru Saito, deputy general manager at Sanwa Bank Ltd.

Last week's surprise ministry of finance deregulation package to promote overseas investment, combined with joint dollar-buying intervention by the United States and Japan, appeared to be taking effect, with Japanese life insurers and other investors increasing overseas holdings, he added.

Another factor behind the dollar's sudden strength appeared to be fresh instability in the Middle East and the continuing crisis in Bosnia, Dresdner's Kudo said.

The dollar had lost much of its traditional status as a "safe haven" in times of political instability, but recent U.S. economic strength seems to have reversed this trend, Mr. Kudo said.

"The U.S. economy is firm and the government is fairly stable as well, certainly more than Japan's. This is reviving the dollar's attractiveness as a safe haven," he added.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin's comments Thursday that a strong dollar is in the best interests of the U.S. recalled similar statements made by Japanese officials when the dollar climbed back to the 90 yen level last week, increasing market perceptions that both countries are sincere in maintaining a strong dollar, dealers said.

Technical factors also fueled the dollar's gains.

Dresdner's Kudo said: "The combination of all these things has been very good for the dollar. And I now see little in the way of a fairly quick rise to 95.00 yen and 1.4500 marks."

Saudi Arabia seeks to become major gold producer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AFP) — Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, is seeking to become a major gold producer by developing some 900 sites, officials and industry experts said.

Last year, Saudi Arabia mined 7.6 tonnes of gold and imported 70 tonnes, which it turned into jewellery and other products sold at home and to other Gulf states, Ahmad Yunes, a representative of the World Gold Council, told AFP.

"You can't compare this output with South Africa's or the United States, the second biggest producer," Mr. Yunes said. Of the 2.296 tonnes produced worldwide in 1994, South Africa accounted for 584 tonnes and the United States 331 tonnes.

"But Saudi Arabia has great potential and could join

the club of big producers in a few years by developing sites believed to contain this precious metal," Mr. Yunes said.

"It won't be easy to develop them, though, and it will require large investments and equipment," he said.

King Fahd Saturday reminded the new cabinet he appointed last week that Saudi Arabia, in addition to its vast oil reserves, had "under its surface, precious minerals like gold."

And during a conference in June on investing in mining, the then oil minister, Hisham Nazer, said there were at least 782 sites where gold was the main metal and 153 others where it was present to some degree.

He estimated Saudi Arabia's proven reserves at more than 20 million tonnes.

Mahd Al Zehab (the cradle of gold), 280 kilometres northeast of Jeddah, contains 1.2 million tonnes of proven reserves, with a density of 31 grammes (1.085 ounces) of gold per tonne and 73 grammes (2.555 ounces) of silver per tonne.

Its output increased from 1.6 tonnes of gold in 1988 to 5.1 tonnes in 1994 and revenues rose from \$5.89 million to \$29.49 million in the same period, according to figures from the petroleum and mineral resources ministry.

Mahd Al Zehab has produced 25 tonnes of gold since it went into production in 1988.

Skhibrat, which is the country's second highest gold producing site and 330 kilometres northeast of Medina, contains an estimated 8.4 million tonnes of

reserves, with a density of 2.5 grammes (.0875 ounces) per tonne.

Al Amar to the centre has 3.5 million tonnes at 25 grammes (.88 ounces) per tonne. Al Hajar in the south has six million tonnes at 3.5 grammes (1.225 ounces) per tonne and Al Suq in the centre has three million tonnes at 5.5 grammes (1.925 ounces) per tonne.

In June, Sheikh Nazer urged Saudi businessmen to invest in the mining industry.

"More than 28 million tonnes of minerals, especially

gold, phosphate, zinc, copper and bauxite were extracted from Saudi territory in 1994, generating \$533 million in net profit," he said.

"Saudi Arabia, whose proven reserves of phosphate are estimated at nearly eight billion tonnes, should become one of the biggest producers in the world," Sheikh Nazer said.

Saudi Arabia also plans over the next several years to produce around 28,000 tonnes of zinc and 8,000 tonnes of copper, according to official estimates.

The kingdom also contains nearly 20 million tonnes of copper ore and 100 million tonnes of bauxite ore.

Arah Gulf countries, like Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, which have foundries, currently import bauxite from Australia.

In 1994, Riyadh invested nearly \$4.131 billion in its mining industry, and it plans to expand the sector by nine per cent over the next five years, Sheikh Nazer said.

Mining already accounts for four per cent of the country's gross national product.

U.S. economy expanding slowly to moderately, survey says

WASHINGTON (AP) — The American economy is expanding moderately in some parts of the country while in others growth practically has come to a standstill, the government has said.

An influential survey of business conditions conducted by the Federal Reserve (Fed) gave a mixed picture.

"Manufacturing, particularly the auto and construction-related industries, continues to slow in many districts," the report said. "However, orders are up in some districts and inventories generally are con-

sidered to be at acceptable levels."

The Fed's so-called "beige book," a periodic survey, appears to support other data that shows the economy has slowed dramatically. But there are few signs that a recession is likely, private analysts and government economists say.

Gross domestic product, the total of all goods and services produced in the United States, was virtually flat in the second quarter of the year. Analysts have said they expect a modest improvement in the current quarter.

The survey, concluded July

31 based on reports from the Fed's 12 regional banks, said most areas of the nation "continue to report economic expansion, although in some areas the rate of expansion has moderated recently. The upper Midwest, southeast and west continue to expand. Other areas are experiencing little or no growth."

The survey also said retail sales are up slightly in about half the country and are sluggish or declining elsewhere.

Inflation pressures remain. The Fed said, but "the rate of increases appears to be moderating" for materials and supplies.

Hong Kong's affluent image marred by growing rich-poor gap — survey

HONG KONG (AFP) — The gap between the rich and the poor is growing in Hong Kong, tarnishing its image as an affluent society, a survey has showed.

The survey, commissioned by charity group Oxfam Hong Kong, showed the gap between rich and poor in Hong Kong was far wider than in Taiwan and Singapore.

Gini coefficient, an index measuring the income gap — jumped from 0.451 in 1981 to 0.476 in 1991. In Taiwan and Singapore, the index was between 0.3 and 0.4, respectively.

The 72-page Oxfam study, authored by Lui Tak-lok, Chinese University sociology lecturer, concluded that "poverty is a structural problem in our society and should not be viewed as the misfortune of individuals."

"Never have they been challenged with high inflation, exorbitant land prices, economic restructuring and a whole chain of problems, in which the hardest hit are the lower income groups," he said.

The survey showed an estimated 15 per cent of 230,000 households had a monthly income less than 4,000 Hong Kong dollars (\$518).

Social Welfare Department statistics appeared to support Oxfam's findings. They showed the number of public assistance recipients climbing from 98,300 in May 1994 to 112,900 in May this year.

The 72-page Oxfam study, authored by Lui Tak-lok, Chinese University sociology lecturer, concluded that "poverty is a structural problem in our society and should not be viewed as the misfortune of individuals."

"Never have they been challenged with high inflation, exorbitant land prices, economic restructuring and a whole chain of problems, in which the hardest hit are the lower income groups," he said.

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"Never have they been challenged with high inflation, exorbitant land prices, economic restructuring and a whole chain of problems, in which the hardest hit are the lower income groups," he said.

THE Daily Crossword by Dorothy B. Martin

ACROSS

- Accumulate
- and crafts
- Pipe residue
- Move furtively
- Booby
- Movie dog
- "For want of —"
- Ratio words
- Move about
- Baptism ceremony
- Breathe in short gasps
- Memo
- Appear
- Coronet
- Fragrance
- Jai —
- Stage item
- Stage whisper
- Chutzpah
- Table leaving
- Weary
- Spirited horse
- Dramatic personae
- Arabian sultanate
- Danger
- Top — (main comedian)
- Pendant ornament
- In order
- Opposed
- Pleasure tour
- Mindanao native
- QED word
- Surpass
- Blissful place
- Hollow
- Lariat
- Morning moisture
- One who ogle
- Demi —

DOWN

- Happy — lark
- Skirt style
- Eden inhabitant
- Slender
- Moon goddess
- Tilting
- "Sweet —"
- O'Grady (old song)
- Dorothy's dog
- Intoxicated
- "— Is Born"
- Bee's weapon
- Author Bret
- Malicious state-native
- Cavort
- Castle ditch
- Rather and Duryea
- "— a song go out..."
- Swiss river
- Pastime
- Chooses
- Move back and forth
- A feast —
- "— la Douce"
- College official
- Poet Millay
- Actress McClurg
- Ski lift component
- Encasement
- State positively
- Domesticated
- Battery terminal
- Scatter
- Climb
- External
- Hospital picture
- Corn lily
- Edible tubers
- Trawling equipment
- New Guinea town

Puzzle solved:

S	O	L	A	R	C	A	S	T	G	A	S	P
A	W	A	R	E	O	X	E	N	E	L	L	E
E	D	N	O	T	H	E	R	T	O	N	G	U
E	D	D	Y	W	A	L	E	A	R	N		
N	A	T	I	O	N	B	A	G	G	A	G	E
A	G	E	N	T	F	A	D	E	R	A	T	
D	A	R	K	H	O	R	S	E	R	A	D	I
A	I	R	G	E	E	D	T	O	S	E	E	
N	E	S	T	L	E	D	B	O	T	T	L	E
H	E	E	L	M	A	P						
A	T	S	E	A	A	H	A	B	E	A	S	F
L	O	O	K	M	A	N	O	H	A	N	D	S
T	U	N	E	U	C	L	A	O	N	I	O	N
O	R	E	L	K	E	E	L	M	A	N	T	A

THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

"I met someone on the Internet who shares the same interests as me. Boy, what a boring guy!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arginton

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TYMPE
DESET
DYSTUR
RAGIST

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: JULEP WAGON NUTRIA MEDLEY
Answer: Why the bride was such a success at the wedding ceremony — SHE WAS WELL "TRAINED"

Peanuts

"I'VE DECIDED TO TRY TO BE A BETTER PERSON..."

"BUT NOT RIGHT AWAY, OF COURSE..."

"MAYBE A FEW DAYS FROM NOW..."

Andy Capp

"I'VE WORKED OUT A NEW BUDGET FOR US, PET..."

"HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE IT?"

"IMAGINATIVE..."

"SOUNDS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE ALMOST AS EXPENSIVE FOR ME AS THE ONE HE CALLED 'BOLD'!"

Mutt'n Jeff

"WE GOTTA MAKE PEOPLE LAUGH, STUPID!"

"WHO LAUGHS STUPID?"

"YOUR FUNCTION IN LIFE IS TO BE FUNNY! NOW, CLIMB UP ON THAT STOOL!"

"O.K. NOW DO SOMETHING FUNNY!"

"I COULDN'T THINK OF ANYTHING FUNNIER"

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll, Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You can be very creative today so make your plans wisely, and follow through with them. Listen to the ideas of your mate.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Think of home and family today, and make your abode a heavenly and restful place. Do some entertaining with your mate for some good friends.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You know the right way to gain more cooperation today from regular allies and thereby become more successful. Get your desk tasks handled.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Concentrate on making the most wise plan possible today so that you add considerably to your assets. Take it easy.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You are dynamic today and should contact those persons from whom you desire favours, and you can easily gain them with a smile.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Study your overall ambitions today since you are too overwhelmed with details and could lose sight of what is truly important.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get into social affairs which truly intrigue you today, and the evening can be a memorable one. Be more sure of yourself.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can accomplish much in the outside business world today so get an early start. Shop wisely and handle civic matters.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You like to think big and this is the right day for that because you can accomplish something worthwhile in your life.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You may get so involved with specifics that you could forget the motives behind your undertakings.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Early today find out what your associates expect of you, and then get busy and try to please them for you to succeed.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be more enthused about whatever you may be doing today and gain the cooperation of fellow associates. Avoid one who is jealous of you.

Birthstone of August: Peridot — Golden Quartz

Cement company authorized to issue JD 15 million debentures

assembly of the men... (JCF) approved... Thursday... to issue JD 15 million... debentures... environmental... ordinary... meeting... shareholders... distribution... of 14 per cent... dividends... the company... a JD 10.4... in net sales... registered JD... 1994 as the... highest production... processed 3.1 million... of clinker with JD... ports in industrial... totalled 55,000... nearly 140,000... than the 1993... (AI Ra'i).

MORE THAN cargo clearing and companies will soon their work from near Queen Alia International Airport. The new square metre building will house 66 clearing companies and 42 staff firms, was set up by the Aviation Authority at JD 218,000. The new facility will be for the companies as well as having 64 new of various sizes to operate now being used at the of the airport. The volume of freight to the airport, which added to 1.14 million tonnes of mail, is expected to increase in the near

THE AUDIT saved the treasury 1 million during the first months of this year. A report, the bureau 17,630 records, 201 participated in a 2000 committee. The Bureau issued 56 clear financial irregularities government officials. There were 1,711 requests still standing. Meanwhile, Corporate of Planning Bureau is conducting performance evaluation of communications such as the Development and the Postal Savings Fund. The General Statistics these institutions are expected to come out in months (AI Ra'i).

**Business
Daily
Beat**

A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

Cement company authorised to issue JD 15 million debentures

THE GENERAL assembly of the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) approved at an extraordinary session held Thursday recommendations put by the board of directors to issue JD 15 million of debentures to finance production modernisation and environmental projects. At the ordinary general assembly meeting held afterwards, shareholders approved the distribution of JD 8.46 million, or 14 per cent, in dividends. The company generated a JD 10.4 million net profit last year after having processed 3.1 million tonnes of clinker with JD 67.37 million in industrial costs. Exports totalled 887,023 tonnes, nearly 140,000 tonnes higher than the 1993 figures (Al Ra'i).

THE HEAD of the truckowners' association accuses transport offices of violating rules governing new charges issued by the Ministry of Transport, especially for carrying goods to foreign destinations. He charges these offices of lowering or increasing the tariffs according to their own interests and points out that a load to Baghdad carries a JD 19 per tonne tariff but transport offices pay only JD 10 per tonne and unrightfully keep JD 9 per tonne as profit. The association chief says lack of strict control and supervision is giving the transport offices the opportunity to load non-Jordanian trucks whenever a large number of them are present. The ministry said it would tighten supervision on these offices and urged strict adherence to the new tariffs (Al Ra'i).

MORE THAN 100 air cargo clearing and freight companies will soon begin their work from new offices near Queen Alia International Airport. The new 1,650 square metre building, which will house 68 clearing companies and 42 airfreight firms, was set up by the Civil Aviation Authority at cost of JD 218,000. The move will facilitate working conditions for the companies as they will be having 64 new offices of various sizes to operate from instead of the four offices now being used at the premises of the airfreight building. The volume of freight from the airport, which amounted to 720,070 tonnes of goods in addition to 1.14 million kilograms of mail, is expected to increase in the near future.

THE AUDIT Bureau saved the treasury JD 2.4 million during the first five months of this year. According to the May performance report, the bureau audited 17,650 records, conducted 510 "unannounced tests" and participated in 4,806 different committees. The Audit Bureau issued 56 clarification requests during May 1995 about financial irregularities at various government departments. There were 1,719 clarification requests still outstanding. Meanwhile, the Directorate of Planning and Central Control of the Audit Bureau is conducting a performance evaluation of some institutions such as the Telecommunications Corporation, the Housing and Urban Development Corporation, the Postal Savings Fund and the General Statistics Department. The reports on these institutions are expected to come out in a few months (Al Ra'i).

U.S. cigarette makers fuming over Clinton curbs

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Fuming U.S. tobacco firms went to court Thursday to block a government crackdown on cigarette sales to minors, and served notice to President Bill Clinton that he was running serious political risks.

The advertising industry also threatened legal action if necessary to protect what it called its constitutional right to promote tobacco products without restrictions from Washington.

They were responding to Mr. Clinton's announcement Thursday that nicotine was an addictive drug and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) would take a series of steps to keep young people from getting hooked.

The measures would forbid the sale of cigarettes to anyone who cannot prove they are at least 18, ban vending machines accessible to young people, and severely curb marketing campaigns aimed at the youth market.

The five major U.S. manufacturers quickly filed suit in a federal court in the southern tobacco state of North Carolina, seeking to block the FDA action.

"The FDA's attempt to exert jurisdiction over

cigarettes is an unprecedented and unlawful effort to extend its regulatory reach far beyond its statutory mandate," said Charles Blixt, senior vice president of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco.

The tobacco industry says the FDA would need a mandate from Congress before it could get into such areas, and so far legislators have shown no inclination to confer such authority on the regulatory body.

Cigarette manufacturers also complained that the Clinton campaign against teen smoking ignored their own voluntary efforts to keep their product out of the hands of minors. They predicted a long court fight.

Political analysts said Mr. Clinton's decision to take on the tobacco industry could have serious electoral consequences coming barely 15 months before the Democrat will be seeking a second term in the White House.

Steve Parrish, a senior vice president of the Philip Morris tobacco company, suggested Mr. Clinton was taking a chance by ignoring the message of the Republican landslide in last November's congressional elections.

GTE to join Disney, Baby Bell venture

LOS ANGELES (R) — U.S. telecommunications giant GTE said Thursday it had agreed to join Walt Disney Co. and three regional telephone companies in a \$500 million entertainment venture providing video programming and interactive services.

In a statement, GTE Corp said it will join Ameritech Corp, BellSouth Corp and Southwestern Bell, a unit of SBC Communications Inc, as an equal partner in the venture.

Disney and the three regional "Baby Bell" companies originally announced the creation of the home entertainment venture in April 1995.

The Los Angeles-based venture, to be funded collectively by the partners with \$500 million over a five-year period, will initially provide entertainment and interactive programming for distribution by the communication partners.

While Disney is developing the core programming, the telephone companies are upgrading their networks to carry video and interactive signals to homes and businesses.

GTE's involvement increases the combined reach of the venture to 68 million access lines in 33 states from 50 million access lines previously. Adding lucrative markets such as Los Angeles, Tampa, St. Petersburg, Florida, Dallas and other sunbelt cities. It also gives the venture a presence in the northwest, southwest and southeast.

"This is an important step forward for the venture," said Disney Chairman Michael Eisner. "GTE will help introduce the venture's programming into new growth areas of the country. This means more people in more places will be entertained and informed by the venture programming."

The entertainment giant has not discussed financial terms or said whether the investment will be divided equally among the partners. The venture will develop, acquire, package and market entertainment, educational and interactive programming on a nationwide basis. It will also develop services such as video-on-demand, home shopping and networked video games.

Financial Markets			
Jordan Times			
In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank			
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin			
Currency	Unit	Offer	Buy
U.S. Dollar	0.702	0.704	
Sterling Pound	1.1204	1.1244	
Deutsche Mark	0.4968	0.4993	
Swiss Franc	0.5492	0.5522	
French Franc	0.1440	0.1447	
Japanese Yen	0.7466	0.7484	
Dutch Guilder	0.4434	0.4454	
Swedish Krona	—	—	—
Italian Lira	0.0443	0.0445	
Belgian Franc	—	—	—

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.			
One U.S. dollar	1.3580/90	Canadian dollar	1.4302/12
	1.6016/26	Deutsche marks	1.6016/26
	1.1868/78	Dutch guilders	29.57/41
	29.57/41	Swiss francs	4.9218/68
	4.9218/68	Belgian francs	1588.29/2
	1588.29/2	French francs	93.67/77
	93.67/77	Italian lire	7.1130/30
	7.1130/30	Japanese yen	6.2760/10
	6.2760/10	Norwegian crowns	5.5350/00
	5.5350/00	Danish crowns	—
One Sterling	1.5844/54	U.S. dollar	—
One ounce of gold	\$383.80/384.30	U.S. dollars	—

Dual Currency Syndicated Loan Jordanian Dinars 8.12 million US\$ 12.2 million

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The Housing Bank
Social Security Corporation
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August, 1995

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Aussies show swim power in Olympic tuneup Japanese women serve notice for 1996

ATLANTA (AFP) — Dan Kowalski edged world distance record king Kieren Perkins for gold and added a silver Thursday to lead Australia's greatest one-day medal haul ever at the Pan Pacific Swim Championships.

Australia captured nine medals, three gold and five silver, on the opening day of the biannual meet. Japan's women were also impressive with two triumphs and five medals overall.

Kowalski won the 800-metre freestyle in 7:50.28, out-touching Perkins by 52-hundredths of a second to deny his countryman's bid for a third straight PanPac sweep of the three longest races, in which he owns world records.

"I was surprised. I didn't think I would swim that quick," Kowalski said. "It was a total shock. It was my best time by four seconds."

Kowalski was out of the

water from last September until April with a sore shoulder, a broken foot and injuries in a car accident. But he stayed with Perkins on every stroke until the finish.

"I was quietly confident with 50m to go I would win," Kowalski said. "I had been staying with him through the first 400 and I was moving faster. It was a great race."

Barely 30 minutes later, Kowalski was second to New Zealand's Danyon Loader in the 200 freestyle, banging on for silver over the final length of the new \$17 million pool where 1996 Olympic races will be contested.

"After doing so much in the first 150 when I was hurting, there was no way I was going to let it all slip away in the last 50," he said.

The only blemish on Australia's success came in the

women's 1,500m freestyle showdown, where reigning champion Hayley Lewis was edged by Brooke Bennett, the 15-year-old who swept Janet Evans in distance races at the U.S. finals last week.

"I was surprised but I knew I was swimming well and could do it if I kept my concentration," Bennett said. "I won three gold medals at the U.S. championships. Maybe I'll come away with three golds here."

Lewis has her chance for revenge this weekend in the 400m and 800m freestyles.

Australians Susan O'Neill and Scott Miller set PanPac records in swimming 200m butterfly titles.

O'Neill, 200m butterfly bronze medalist at the 1992 Olympics and 1994 world meet, won in 2:07.29, four-hundredths of a second below the decade-old mark set by U.S. swimmer Mary T.

Meagher in Japan.

"It was just great knowing the team is doing really well and having your best times," O'Neill said. "I was pretty happy. I could tell I was on a good pace."

Miller lowered the PanPac record by six-hundredths of a second to 1:57.86, eclipsing the mark set by U.S. veteran Melvin Stewart in 1991. Another Australian, Scott Goodman, took second in 1:58.65 after fighting off an illness last month. Both times were personal bests.

"I'm really happy," Miller said. "I was a little bit nervous and I was hurting this morning. Plus I knew Scott would be fast."

Loader lowered his nation's best in the 200m freestyle, edging Tasman rival Kowalski to win in 1:48.72.

"I was good considering I was a half a length behind

at the start," Loader said. "I just wanted to go fast as long as I could."

Japanese women made an impressive showing, with Suzu Chiba winning the 200m freestyle in 2:00.00 and Noriko Inada taking the 100 backstroke in a Japan-record 1:02.02. Japan's women also had a silver and a bronze.

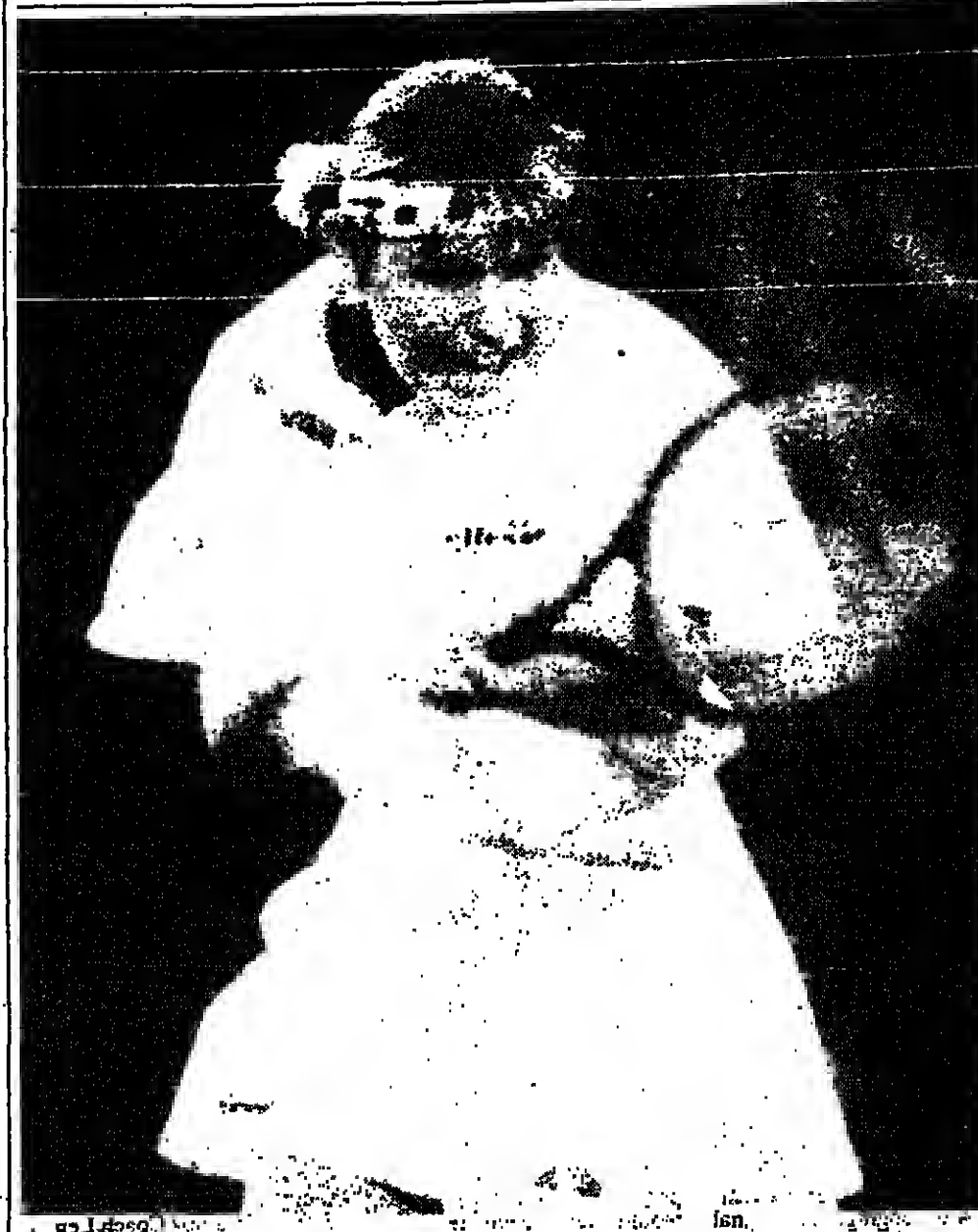
"The past prizes Japan has won is really encouraging us to make a greater effort and go even farther and swim faster," said Chiba, who was sixth in her event at the 1992 Olympics.

World record holder Jeff Rouse won an unprecedented fourth straight PanPac 100m backstroke crown in 54.99 seconds.

Rodolfo Falcon set a Cuban record of 55.48 in preliminaries but was disqualified in the final for staying too long underwater.



A 1937 Jazzed Classic Salon on exhibition at the Amman International Motor Show (photo the Royal wing of the 2nd annual Classic Car by Roufan Nahhas) Exhibition which was held Aug. 10 and 11 at



Sanchez, Sabatini reach quarters

Hill wins Hungarian GP provisional pole

BUDAPEST (AP) — Damon Hill, driving for his job in Formula One racing, posted the fastest time Friday to take the provisional pole position for Sunday's Hunga-

rian Grand Prix.

His Williams Renault teammate, David Coulthard, was second, giving fans of the two British drivers heart as both need to perform well to stay with Williams.

Hill, who spun out two weeks ago barely one lap into the German Grand Prix, had a fastest lap of one minute, 18.374 seconds on the 3.668-kilometre Hungarian Circuit in the rolling hills outside the Hungarian capital.

Hill, second in the drivers' standings this year, was .626 second faster than Coulthard.

World champion Michael Schumacher of Germany, who got married last week and is said to be close to signing with Ferrari for next year, managed only fourth best, with 1:19.490, third was Gerhard Berger of Austria.

Berger's Ferrari teammate, Jean Alesi of France, was

fifth at 1:20.134. But trying to better his time, he spun out on a curve, bounced through the gravel and slammed into a soft barrier of piled tires. His car was badly damaged, but Alesi walked away.

The Hungarian track is one of the shorter on the Grand Prix circuit, and its narrow and short straights mean it is hard to pass, putting a premium on the pole and high positions in the field.

The drivers all have another chance Saturday to improve their positions in the field in the second session of time trials.

While race preparations went ahead, the motor racing press devoted itself to a carousel of likely driver changes for next year's Grand Prix season.

Fiat tycoon Giovanni Agnelli confirmed on Thurs-

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 in order to receive the terms of tender for a non-refundable fee of JD 100.
- Tenders are to be submitted in duplicate: an original and a copy, each placed in a separate envelope.
- The tender is to be accompanied by a tender guarantee or a certified banker's cheque for 5 % of the tender's total value as a guarantee of participation in the supply offer. The financial guarantee or cheque shall be placed in a separate envelope.
- The three envelopes shall together be placed in one sealed envelope bearing the name of the supplier and submitted to QAF no later than 2:00 pm on Sunday, 1 October 1995.
- Suppliers may choose to present an offer on only one of the required items.
- Suppliers are asked to specify unit prices in words as well as in figures.
- Tenders failing to observe all the above terms shall not be considered.

MANHATTAN BEACH (Agencies) — After a first-round bye and second-round default, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario finally got a chance to work up a sweat Thursday at the \$430,000 Acira Classic women's tennis tournament.

She made the most of her first match, defeating No. 16 Sabine Appelmans, 6-0, 3-6, 6-2 in the third round. It took Sanchez Vicario 1 hour, 47 minutes to get the win.

Top-seeded Sanchez Vicario took command early on, needing just 26 minutes to breeze through the first set.

"I was definitely eager to play," Sanchez Vicario said. "I wanted to start competition. This is the first time I've ever had to wait so long."

Appelmans turned the tables in the second set, breaking Sanchez Vicario in the sixth game to take a 4-2 lead. She held serve and won the second set, 6-3, the first set Sanchez Vicario had ever lost to Appelmans.

"I started really good, but she came back with some good shots and gave me trouble in the second set," Sanchez Vicario said.

But she got back on track in the third set, breaking Appelmans in the fourth game. She broke Appelmans again in the sixth game to take a 5-1 lead.

Appelmans won another game before falling, 6-2.

"I started playing my game, and playing this way has given me a lot of confidence," Sanchez Vicario said.

Gabriela Sabatini needed only 56 minutes to dispose of Karina Habsudova 6-1, 6-2.

The third-seeded Sabatini was in total control throughout, winning 71 per cent of her first serves and 75 per cent of Habsudova's second serves.

Habsudova, the No. 14 seed from Slovakia, negated any chance she may have had with numerous unforced errors and three double faults.

Sabatini meets 10th-seeded Chanda Rubin in the quarterfinals. Rubin advanced with a 7-6 (7-3), 3-6, 6-1 victory over Nathalie Baudone of Italy in a 2-hour, 19-minute match.

In other third-round action Thursday, No. 14 Lindsay Davenport eliminated No. 12 Amanda Coetzer of South Africa 7-5, 6-3, No. 5 Anke Huber of Germany beat Rita Grande of Italy 6-4, 4-6, 7-5; No. 6 Natasha Zvereva of Belarus topped Asa Carlsson of Sweden 4-6, 6-3, 6-2; and Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia upset No. 9 Nathalie Tauziat of France 7-6 (7-5), 6-3.

In other quarterfinal matches, Sanchez Vicario faces Zvereva, No. 2 Conchita Martinez of Spain meets Huber and Davenport faces Basuki. Martinez advanced to the quarterfinals Wednesday night, beating No. 15 Julie Halard of France 6-7 (6-8), 6-0, 6-3.

The semifinals will be played Saturday and the final on Sunday at the Manhattan Country Club.

Sabatini said she played much better Thursday than she did in her second-round match, a three-set victory over Kristie Boogert of the Netherlands.

"I expected a little tougher match today," Sabatini said. "I hadn't played her before, but I've seen her play. She has very solid groundstrokes. My game seemed to bother her a lot."

"I think I controlled the match. My strategy was very good. I was mixing up the shots and I caused her to make a lot of errors."

In the first set of the Davenport-Coetzer match, there were four consecutive service breaks, and in the second set, five straight, with Davenport coming out on top 3-2.

Davenport won the last three games of the first set and the final two of the second.

"I always felt I should break her, and when I would get a break, I kind of relaxed a bit," Davenport said. "I went for the big forehand and it seemed to be working."

"It was sure hot out there. She lets you attack and she played really well, but I think she got tired."

Agassi, Chang advance

In Mason, Ohio, world number one Andre Agassi and two-time defending champion Michael Chang survived spirited challenges, but Boris Becker was one of four seeds to fall in second-round play at the ATP championships.

The fourth-ranked Becker, making his first appearance since reaching the Wimbledon final, fell short in a tight struggle with Dutch left-hander Jan Siemerink 7-5, 7-6 (9-7).

"Unfortunately now, I'll be practicing a lot the next few days instead of playing a couple more matches," Becker said.

Top seed Agassi struggled through a tough opening set before roaring through the second in overcoming Czech Daniel Vacek 7-6 (7-3), 6-1, while fourth seed Chang was extended by 157th-ranked fellow American Alex O'Brien, prevailing 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 to reach the third round.

Joining Becker on the sidelines was fifth-seeded Russian star Yevgeny Kafelnikov, who fell 6-4, 7-5, to Bernd Karbacher of Germany.

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♥ 8 5 3
♦ 8 4 2
♣ J 10 8 4

EAST
♠ J 10 8 7 4
♥ 6 3
♦ K 8 3
♣ A J 9 7 5

SOUTH
♠ K 5 2

The bidding: South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of ♠

How good is your technique? Cover up the East and West hands and decide how you would play three no trump after the lead of the jack of spades.

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The problem is you might need to take three finesses to bring in four heart tricks, and you have only two entries to dummy. You have to manufacture a third and the optimum chance is to hope West's lead was from J 10 rather than shortness.

Win the ace of spades at trick one and jettison your king of spades under it. Now take the heart finesse. When that wins, cash the ace and king of clubs to see whether the queen drops, in which case another heart finesse will deliver the contract. When the lady doesn't appear, congratulate yourself for your foresight at trick one and lead a spade to the nine. That holds and you can take two more heart finesses, which you need as the cards lie, to take in nine hard-earned tricks.

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Fais
By a Jo Staff
AMMAN — day scored a win over re League ch Whidat to cord 9th Cup — one of the major soccer Al Faisali another re team's long l ments as th won the Jor times and League 25 th Friday's o Hussein You attended by Highnesses P lah Ben Al Princess Rani Al Faisali half 1-0 on Hussa Awad and laileh as the coherent tea totally domina half. Al Whidat's jadan score face-saving go ginning of the Al Faisali's mad sealed his

Olaju
SECAUCUS (AP) — After U.S. Olympic first time. Hake hardly cared the tight. After th through to get wasn't importan "It's beautif when he model white and blue for the first tim For Olajuwon of the first playe the 12-man 199 team marked the mission and th another — winn medal. Ever since allowed to par Olympic basket on in 1992, th born Houston Ro dreamed of play adopted countr ed, with longin Dream Team w Barcelona. But even thou came a U.S. prize international basket prohibited him fr for the United Sta he had represente Nigeria to an m tournaments when teenager. By the time a

JOHANNESBURG
— The contest to which three coun represent Africa Olympic Games tournament in the States resumes this Nigeria, favour only to reach the finals, but proble ger for the gold med Egypt, whose 10 appearances is a rec Africa. The Egyptians first at the finals 75 years the Belgian city of A losing 2-1 to Italy in round, and were as tion at the 1992 Ba Games. Nigeria can c European-based pro als like Augustine from German club Frankfurt and Nw Kanu, who collecte pean Cup winners' me year with Dutch n Ajax. Without their Forer gion, Nigeria strugg

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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1995

Faisali win Cup Winner's Cup

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Al Faisali Friday scored a convincing 4-1 win over reigning Premier League champions Al Wihdat to clinch their record 9th Cup Winner's Cup — one of the country's four major soccer titles.

Al Faisali's win added another record to the team's long line of achievements as they have also won the Jordan Cup nine times and the Premier League 25 times.

Friday's match at Al Hussein Youth City was attended by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein and Princess Rania.

Al Faisali won the first half 3-0 on goals from Mousa Awad, Rafeh Al Awadat and Firas Khalil as the team displayed coherent teamwork and totally dominated the first half.

Al Wihdat's Khaled Madalawi scored his team's face-saving goal at the beginning of the second half.

Al Faisali's Ja'far Hamad sealed his team's win

with the fourth goal in the final minutes of the match attended by over 14,000 fans.

Al Faisali had faced Al Wihdat for the Cup Winner's Cup four times winning the title in three of their clashes: 6-4 on penalties in 1981, 1-0 in 1986 and 2-1 in 1993. Al Wihdat beat Al Faisali 5-4 on penalties to win the title in 1989.

The JSF had considered the postponement of the match on a request by Al Wihdat who have four players on the Olympic team which recently con-

cluded a tournament in Taiwan. The players are Abdallah Abu Zameh, Su'yan Abdallah, Faisal Ahmad, and Munir Abu Hantash.

However, the team arrived in Amman Thursday and players, although tired, were here in time for the match.

Al Faisali and Al Wihdat have secured at least one title this season. Al Wihdat beat Al Jalil to win the JSF Shield while Al Faisali overcame Al Ramtha to win their record 9th Jordan Cup.

Cup Winner's Cup record (Runner up in brackets)

1981	Al Faisali (Al Wihdat)
1982	Al Faisali (Ramtha)
1983	Al Faisali (Al Wihdat)
1984	Al Faisali (Ramtha)
1985	Al Faisali (Amman)
1986	Al Faisali (Al Wihdat)
1987	Al Faisali (Arabi)
1988	No match was held
1989	Al Wihdat (Al Faisali)
1990	Al Faisali (Ramtha)
1991	Al Faisali (Ramtha)
1992	Al Wihdat (Al Faisali)
1993	Al Faisali (Al Wihdat)
1994	Al Faisali (Ramtha)
1995	Al Faisali (Al Wihdat)

Olajuwon happy with U.S. Jersey

SECAUCUS, New Jersey (AP) — After putting on his U.S. Olympic Jersey for the first time, Hakeem Olajuwon hardly cared that it was a bit tight. After what he went through to get it, the fit wasn't important.

"It's beautiful," he said when he modelled the red, white and blue No. 15 jersey for the first time.

For Olajuwon, being one of the first players named on the 12-man 1996 Olympic team marked the end of one mission and the start of another — winning a gold medal.

Ever since pros were first allowed to participate in Olympic basketball competition in 1992, the Nigerian-born Houston Rockets centre dreamed of playing for his adopted country. He watched, with longing, the original Dream Team win gold in Barcelona.

But even though he became a U.S. citizen in 1993, international basketball rules prohibited him from playing for the United States because he had represented his native Nigeria in an international tournament when he was a teenager.

By the time a team was

chosen to represent the United States in the 1994 World Championships, Olajuwon had largely given up any thought of ever being able to play for America.

"It wasn't a dream anymore for me," he said. "I decided to concentrate on other areas."

But on a trip through Boston in late 1994, he contacted Alan Dershowitz, The Harvard Law professor and attorney whose celebrity clients have included Mike Tyson and American footballer O.J. Simpson. Over dinner, Dershowitz said he thought Olajuwon could get permission to play from FIBA and offered to help.

"I just think Hakeem Olajuwon is the best role model in the NBA today for young people," Dershowitz said. "It would have been really a tragedy if he wasn't allowed to play in the Olympics."

FIBA was willing to listen to Olajuwon. When USA Basketball made its selections for the team in June, his waiver from FIBA was all but assured of going through and he was invited to join the team right around the time he was leading Houston to its second consecutive NBA ti-

tle.

"I thought it was too good to be true," he said.

It wasn't. A few weeks later, FIBA secretary Borislav Stankovic granted Olajuwon an exception to the rules. He was free to play with Orlando's Shaquille O'Neal, San Antonio's David Robinson, Utah's Karl Malone and John Stockton, Chicago's Scottie Pippen and the rest of "Dream Team III" in Atlanta.

"This is the highest level of competition in the United States," he said. "To be selected as one of the players, (one of) only 12 to represent the U.S., it's a big honour."

It also will mean big fun for Olajuwon, who relishes the opportunity to play alongside O'Neal and Robinson, the other two Dream Team III centres. To allow Coach Larry Wilkens to have more than one of them on the floor at a time, Olajuwon said would gladly shift to power forward on occasion.

"It gives a lot of room to be creative," he said. "You're playing against your toughest competition in practice. The competition will be in practice. In the game, we'll be a team."

African struggle for Olympic places continues

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — The contest to determine which three countries will represent Africa at the 1996 Olympic Games soccer tournament in the United States resumes this weekend.

Nigeria, favourites not only to reach the 16-nation finals, but probable challengers for the gold medals, host Egypt, whose 10 Olympic appearances is a record for Africa.

The Egyptians first played at the finals 75 years ago, in the Belgian city of Antwerp, losing 2-1 to Italy in the first round, and were also in action at the 1992 Barcelona Games.

Nigeria can call on European-based professionals like Augustine Okocha from German club Eintracht Frankfurt and Nwankwo Kanu, who collected a European Cup winners' medal this year with Dutch masters Ajax.

Without their Foreign Legion, Nigeria struggled at

home to modest Kenya in the opening round, drawing 0-0, but an Okocha-inspired team made no mistake in the return match, winning 3-0.

Egypt were less impressive, scoring a couple of one-goal victories over little Mauritius, and it would be a surprise if Nigeria fail to build a winning lead with home advantage.

Traditional southern Africa rivals Zimbabwe and Zambia will not lack confidence ahead of their showdown following convincing first-round triumphs over Malawi and Botswana respectively.

Alois Bunjira and Elasto Lungu, a son of former national defender Ephraim,

scored twice each for Zimbabwe while Zambian Dennis Lota finished with a similar goal tally.

Ghana, idle in the opening phase when cash-strapped Congo withdrew, entertain Angola, who boast one of the most exciting young African players in Fabrice 'Akwa' Mateus.

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World Athletics championships

U.S. wake up with Torrence hangover

GOTHENBURG (AFP) — The U.S. team were determined to get on with the World Championships here on Friday, but remained hit by the hangover of their victory over Owen Torrence's disqualification and the accusations of cheating.

Torrence hit the line a clear winner here on Thursday night and completed her victory lap to thunderous applause before a jury disqualified the American for stepping out of her lane.

But what's been just as hard to swallow for the American squad were gold medalist Merlene Ottey's allegations that Torrence had cheated, and that the U.S. had used its influence to deny Ottey the 100m gold at the 1993 World Championships.

Meanwhile two-time Olympic champion Roger Kingdom was fastest first round qualifier in the 110 metres hurdles Friday as he chased his first world title.

Then he described how the disqualification of Torrence would spark the United States team into even greater efforts in the final three days of the World Championships.

"It's a sad situation and I wish it hadn't happened to her," Kingdom said. "It was almost the race of her life."

"But this will motivate the American runners. We'll band together and support her. We've still got one of the best forces in the world in track and field and, when you take one of best out, teams pull together."

In other developments Friday, defending titlist Ioanmea Quintero of Cuba and the 1991 champion Heike Henkel of Germany both were eliminated in the first round of the women's high jump and the championship record in the men javelin was broken twice in the qualifying round, first by Germany's Boris Hentz then by world record holder Jan Zelezny of the Czech Republic.

Henkel managed 1.93 metres and placed 16th overall, while Quintero's best was 1.90 and she was 20th. Twelve metres it was to Sunday's final, including American jumper Amy Acuff who cleared 1.93.

Henry threw 87.60 metres in the javelin to beat the meet record of 85.98, set by defending champion Zelezny at the last championships in Stuttgart. Zelezny, whose world record is 95.66, responded with a throw of 90.12.

Kingdom, who turns 33 in two weeks and almost back to his best after recovering from two knee operations, clocked 13.35 to win his heat after four false starts had made him unusually nervous.

"It's aggravating. You get antsy in the blocks and your arms are shaking," he said of the five-minute delay caused by the false starts.

"I'm also suffering from tendinitis behind my right knee," said Kingdom after his first race since July 10 in Stockholm.

"But you can't think about that. These are the World Championships."

Another American medal contender, Allen Johnson, moved into the second round later Friday by winning his heat in 13.44.

In the absence of defending champion and world record holder Colin Jackson, who is injured, Britain's hopes rest on 1993 silver medalist Tony Jarrett, who won his heat in 13.57.

Torrence's disqualification Thursday was just one incident in a seemingly crazy hour at the World Championships. Inessa Kravets, a Ukrainian, broke the triple world record by a massive 41 centimetres, a Syrian heptathlete won her country's first gold medal and Chinese walker Zhao Yongsheng, well ahead in the 50-kilometre race, collapsed of dehydration in the street and was taken to hospital.

Friday's schedule also promised something spectacular. Michael Johnson, already proud owner of the 400-metre title, planned to add the 200 to his collection and become the first man to win both at one major international championships.

There also was the women's 400 hurdles, the men's discus and the prospect of a Kenyan 1-2-3 in the steeplechase.

Torrence didn't consider she lost.

"I'm not going to let this ruin my 100m gold. I was clearly the victor," said the American, who also beat Ottey and Irina Privalova in the 100.

Ottey smiled as she collected the gold medal from Prince Albert of Monaco.

"I don't care," said the 35-year-old Jamaican, who stretched her record medals total to 12 — three gold, three silver, six bronze.

"I saw on TV that she ran out of her lane. That was cheating."

"She ran about two metres shorter than anybody. She ran in somebody's lane which she shouldn't do. It's like having two false starts."

"I don't know if she did it purposely. Sometimes when you run as short as possible you run too close. I heard she did it in the semifinal, too."

Ottey, who lost the 100-metre title to another American runner, Gail Devers, after a photo-finish at Stuttgart two years ago, had more anxious moments to wait until she knew she had her second 200-metre championship in a row.

"Stuttgart was unfair to me," said Ottey, now the winner of three golds, three silvers and six bronze medals at the championships. "I thought I won — even after the photo finish."



Syria's Ghada Shoua'a prays as she holds her country's flag after she won the women's heptathlon at the World Athletics Championships (AFP photo)

Syria's Ghada Shoua'a wins heptathlon gold

GOTHENBURG (R) — What will Syrian President Hafez Al Assad say Ghada Shoua'a now?

That is the question people may be asking after heptathlete Shoua'a won Syria's first ever gold medal at the World Athletics Championships on Thursday.

"After the 25-year-old won the Asian Games last year Al-Assad presented Shoua'a with a villa and a car."

There is no need for a car this time since Shoua'a won a Mercedes for winning the gold, the first medal for a Middle East country at a World Championships.

According to Syrian athletics official Mowafak Jomaa, the first thing the country will organise is a cavalcade from Damascus to her home village of Maharda 120 kilometres away.

Like 1984 Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion Nawal El Moutawakil, the first Arab woman to win a major title, Shoua'a will become a hero for Arab youngsters after her Gothenburg victory.

"It will encourage Arab girls to take up sport," said Shoua'a who won the competition with 6,651 points, 76 points ahead of Russian Svetlana Moskalets.

Jomaa added: "I hope this will give athletics a big push and make it more popular than football in Syria."

Shoua'a paid tribute to her Russian coach, Kim Bukhantsev, who has been guiding her for the last 12 months. "He has been worth 500 points to me," she said.

Bukhantsev, former coach of 1972 Olympic discus champion Faina Melnik, is Shoua'a's second Russian coach under an exchange agreement between the National Olympic committees of Russia and Syria.

He specialises in the throwing events and it was appropriate that Shoua'a should dramatically overturn Moskalets's 220-point lead in the javelin, the sixth event.

With a decisive 54.92 metres in the final round, compared with the Russian's

41.08, she turned the deficit into a 48-point lead ahead of the final event, the 800 metres.

Moskalets needed to beat Shoua'a by three seconds to capture the gold and with 250 metres remaining the Russian swept into the lead.

But Shoua'a tracked her into the home straight before unleashing a kick to win the race in two minutes 14.33 seconds.

Four years ago Shoua'a was unknown in world terms. At the 1991 World Championships she came 24th and was 25th in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

In 1993 she took the Asian Games title and then repeated her victory last year. She also finished third behind her idol, American Olympic champion Jackie Joyner-Kersey, in the 1994 Goodwill Games.

Shoua'a's first sport was basketball and the 1.78-metre tall athlete has represented her national team.

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